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'Friendly Games' under threat

thletics

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Ben Pimlott on The Queen

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The Booker shortlist

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THE INDEPENDENT

3.106

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 1996

WEATHER Sunny, rain possible

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Blair: My Decent Society

Extracts from the Labour leader's speech in Blackpool yesterday

"Today I offer you, and we offer the country, a new vision. If we are to build this new Age of Achievement, you and I, and all of us together, must first build the decent society to deliver it. A society in which every individual is valued, every person given a chance to develop their potential, a society to which we contribute and which contributes to us."

"History will call it the Decent Society, a new social order for the new Age of Achievement for Britain."

"We will respect family life, develop it and encourage it in any way we can. For strong families are the foundation of strong communities."

"We will provide opportunities for those without ... implement a programme to take 250,000 young people off benefit and into work ... put a roof over the heads of the homeless by releasing money from the sale of council houses ... enhance the environment with policies to ease congestion, reduce pollution."

"I am proud that Labour has taken the mantle of the party of law and order ... I say to the people who tell us it's wrong to want to crack down on violent crime, drug pushers, anti-social neighbours or hoodlums: 'Try living next door to them.'"

"I believe we should ban the private ownership and possession of handguns. That is our duty to the people of Dunblane."

"Previous Labour governments did their duty by British pensioners and so will the next ... But I will not make promises on money until I know they can be kept ... One thing I can promise to pensioners and everyone else gladly: The next Labour government will scrap the Tory internal market of the NHS ... No more hospitals fighting hospitals."

"Let us modernise government itself, so it serves the interests of the people ... A parliament for Scotland and an Assembly for Wales, legislated in the first year of a Labour government ..."



Promises and visions: Tony Blair telling the British people yesterday, 'We are coming home to you. We are back as the party of the people'

Photograph: Brian Harris

Inside
David Aaronovitch.
Covenant with
the people.
Page 4
Cook cool on Europe.
Women lose out
on safe seats.
Page 5

sends me a Christmas card that says 'Tony, please, for me, win', then I tell you, we have a duty to win."

"Just mouth the words: 'Five more Tory years', and feel your senses and reason repulsed by what they have done to our country. The tax-cutting party that gave us the biggest tax rise in peacetime. The law and order party that doubled crime."

"In 1945, when miners voted Labour, they did it so that their sons would not have to go down the pit as they had. And in 1964 their children voted Labour because they saw the next generation's chance to go to university and do better than their parents had done."

"We are not a sect or a cult. We are part of the broad movement of human progress. The marriage of ambition with justice, the constant striving of the human spirit to do better and be better. It is that which separates us from Conservatives."

"Labour's coming home. Seventeen years of hurt never stopped us dreaming. Labour's coming home. As we did in '45 and '64. I know that was then, but it could be again."

"Britain can take on the world and win. And we will be envied throughout the world not just because of our castles and palaces and our glorious history, but because we gave hope back to the generations, we turned this country round by the will of the people, in unity with the party of the people, and we built the Age of Achievement in our lifetime."

"All I ask is a chance to serve. At the time of the next election, there will be just 1,000 days until the new millennium - 1,000 days to prepare for 1,000 years."

"The true radical mission of the Labour Party, new and old, is this: Not to hold people back but to help them get on. Our task is to restore hope, to build a new Age of Achievement in a new and different world."

"Blair played the part of Prime Minister, rehearsing the role which every member of his audience is now sure he will be playing for real in seven months' time ... announcing that he would open immediate negotiations with European governments about how he will handle the British EU presidency in 1998, he was the PM in waiting. At one point he even referred by mistake to 'the Labour government today'. If this was hubris, the confidence loved it."

Donald Macintyre, page 3

Last year, Blair sounded positively 'Kennedyesque' about the future, 'hailing Britain as 'the young country'."

"This year, there was, instead, a strongly nostalgic passage about the post-war 'Forties country of his youth, where families were small, crime was lower, and 'there was a national ethos and spirit that had won the war and stayed with us to peace'."

"It was surprisingly reminiscent of John Major's evocation of a similarly tranquil childhood Britain - not quite the beer and old maids cycling to church, but not far off Mr. and Mrs. of the struggling Braxton family whose children joined the Prime Minister."

Leading article, page 13

"Tony Blair's promise of a decent society, an age of achievement and a pledged contract for government was delivered with one central appeal to the voters beyond Blackpool's Winter Gardens."

"Have the courage to change now," he urged his television audience. "We are coming home to you. We are back as the party of the people; and that is why the people are coming back to us."

"The enthusiasm of delegates belied an underlying subtext - that Mr Blair by no means believes the next election is in the bag."

Anthony Beylins, page 4

QUICKLY
Booker contenders
Beryl Bainbridge leads the six-strong Booker Prize shortlist with her fictionalised account of the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912. Other strong contenders on a list well received by critics are Graham Swift and Margaret Atwood. Both have been nominated before.
Page 3

Lives lost needlessly
Thousands of women are missing out on life-saving drug treatment for breast cancer despite incontrovertible evidence that it can reduce the spread of the disease and increase chances of survival, a British surgeon told an international conference yesterday.
Page 8

Popular culture
Opera and ballet, traditionally regarded as elitist pursuits, have undergone a resurgence of popularity over the past ten years, according to the Arts Council.
Page 9

Chirac snubs Italy
Jacques Chirac yesterday said Italy's hopes of qualifying for the first round of European Monetary Union were unlikely to be fulfilled, as the country was simply too far behind to meet the Maastricht criteria on time.
Page 10

Labour MPs also took cash from lobbyist

CHRIS BLACKHURST and PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Two leading Labour politicians, one of them a Shadow Cabinet member, are among 25 MPs to have received financial assistance from Ian Greer, the controversial Westminster lobbyist at the centre of the cash-for-questions affair.

Chris Smith, Labour's Heritage spokesman, and Doug Hoyle, Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, both confirmed to *The Independent* yesterday that they had received money from Mr Greer to help with general-election expenses. Mr Hoyle served on the Committee of Privileges looking into the allegations about Mr Hamilton's failure to declare hospitality from Mohamed al Fayed, a client of Mr Greer.

News of the payments to the two men's fighting funds will knock a serious dent in Labour's plans to make political capital from the collapse of

the libel case brought by Neil Hamilton, the former Tory minister and Mr Greer, over cash for questions.

But John Major was still facing the heavy embarrassment of the re-opening of the entire cash-for-questions scandal and demands to for his full co-operation with a parliamentary investigation into the affair.

Labour immediately called for an adjournment debate when MPs return to Westminster. In his keynote speech yesterday, Tony Blair seized on the affair. "The Tories changed the law to let Mr Hamilton put his case," he said. "We will change the law to make the Tories clean up their act. To coin a phrase, we will be tough on sleaze and tough on the causes of sleaze."

Mr Blair promised to ask the Nolan Committee on standards in public life "to investigate political funding" and added "we will legislate to make the Tories reveal tell us where their money comes from."

Until *The Independent* contacted them yesterday, neither Mr Smith nor Mr Hoyle's involvement with Mr Greer had been made public. Several senior Tories, including two Government ministers, are also understood to have received contributions to their election expenses from Mr Greer.

So far, only David Mellor, the former minister and MP for Putney, has admitted to taking the cash. At that time, Mr Greer was a constituent of Mr Mellor's. There is no such constituency connection between Mr Greer and the two Labour MPs.

Mr Smith said the lobbyist sent a cheque for £200 during the last general election in 1992. "Ian Greer made a donation of £200 to my election campaign fund at the last election. I accepted it in the normal way, as a donation to my campaign. Asked if he knew Mr Greer, the shadow minister replied: 'Not particularly.'"

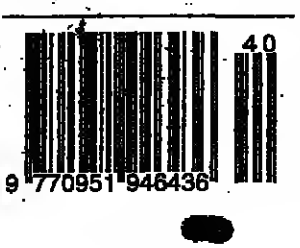
After receiving the money, said Mr Smith, "I phoned him and said 'thanks very much.' Mr Smith stressed that Mr Greer had received nothing in return for the money. "He has not secured any favours from me," he said.

In the light of the controversy surrounding Mr Greer, added Mr Smith, he would "probably not" accept the money again.

Mr Hoyle, chairman of the influential PLP since 1992 - he is up for election this autumn - was twice paid £500 to his election fund to help him win two general-election campaigns. "I've known Ian Greer over many years," said Mr Hoyle, who was a guest at Mr Greer's 60th birthday party.

In the 1987 and 1992 campaigns, Mr Hoyle, the MP for Warrington, was sent £500, unsolicited, by Mr Greer. "I've never asked Ian Greer for a donation," said Mr Hoyle, adding, "It was very welcome to my agent because we're not exactly awash with money."

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news

The Hon Members who helped lobbyist



SIR MICHAEL GRYLLS: The MP for North-West Surrey is a champion of small businesses. Chairman of the Tory trade and industry committee, he is a friend of Greer and in 1989 gave Greer unprecedented access to a meeting of the committee. An inquiry in 1990 found he had received at least three payments for introducing Greer to clients but waited years to declare them.

SIR PETER HORDERN: MP for Horsham. Has served on the public accounts committee and select committee of privileges. Once described as the "ablest Tory never to have been a minister". Widely-respected and with the image of a City Gent he stuck closely to the Commons rules in declaring in the Members' Interests register that he was a paid consultant to

TIM SMITH: MP for Beaconsfield. Served as secretary to the Tory MP's Trade and Industry Committee and a member of the Public Accounts Committee. Smith, 48, used the Commons to ask questions about management consultancy companies used by the Government. Resigned as soon as named as having received cash from Mr Fayed via Mr Greer.

ANDREW BOWDEN: MP for Brighton Kempston. Regarded as cranky by some, he is a tireless campaigner for pensioners and animals. Recruited by Greer in 1987 to help in the Fayed campaign and reportedly paid £5,000 for his efforts. Angry denied the allegations and will not welcome the bad publicity as he prepares to defend a majority of only 3,056.

DAVID MELLOR: Faces a challenge for his Putney seat from Sir James Goldsmith with whom he is currently involved in a public slanging match over who is most embarrassed by today's revelation of his links to Mr Greer. During the Arms to Iraq scandal Mr Hoyle, as a member of the Trade and Industry select committee, was one of the most outspoken critics of government sleaze. He is also regarded in the commons as pro-Israeli.

DOUG HOYLE: MP for Warrington North. An extrovert soft-left MP who is likely to be deeply embarrassed by today's revelation of his links to Mr Greer. During the Arms to Iraq scandal Mr Hoyle, as a member of the Trade and Industry select committee, was one of the most outspoken critics of government sleaze. He is also regarded in the commons as pro-Israeli.

CHRIS SMITH: MP for Islington South and Finsbury. The shadow secretary of health could have done without news of Mr Greer's payment to his election fund emerging as he tries to make his mark at the Labour conference. Hard-working and intellectual he is well-respected by colleagues who would be surprised that he would have any dealings with lobbyists.

Top Tories face dossier of claims

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major and some of the most senior figures in the Conservative Party were being dragged yesterday into the controversy surrounding Neil Hamilton, the Tory MP accused of taking cash for parliamentary questions.

A dossier of fresh allegations allegedly involving other senior Tory figures was sent to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, by Mohamed al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods. His claims that he had paid thousands of pounds in cash in envelopes to Mr Hamilton led to the libel action.

The Prime Minister's office faced calls for the papers to be submitted to a fresh investigation of Mr Hamilton by a Commons committee of MPs. Downing Street is resisting pressure to publish the documents, which led to the case being dropped. They showed a conflict between Mr Hamilton and Ian Greer, the head of a public relations company who was also suing *The Guardian*. The newspaper, which received the government documents, said the inland Revenue would find "much to interest them".

Alex Clarke, the Liberal Democrat MP, told *The Independent* that he is writing to Sir Gordon to call for him to investigate complaints he had made alleging Mr Hamilton

received £25,000 in cash and vouchers.

There was growing pressure last night for Sir Gordon to be given tougher powers. The newly created select committee on standards in public life is dominated by Tory MPs who could frustrate an inquiry until after the election.

Lord Nolan, who reported on standards in public life, warned that Parliament was being damaged by the allegations of sleaze: these, he said, should be investigated by Sir Gordon. But Sir Gordon said his powers were limited. "The judicial system has opportunities which are really open to a select committee inquiry or an inquiry by me."

Donald Dewar, the Labour Chief Whip, led demands for a thorough investigation by Sir Gordon. He said: "In the interests of the public, we have got to get to the bottom of it. I hope Sir Gordon Downey will call for persons and papers will get all the raw material so that we can make a proper judgement."

Labour is likely to press for a debate immediately the Commons returns on 14 October. Mr Hamilton said he is referring the affair to Sir Gordon to clear his name. Mr Dewar said: "I am not sure that will be popular with some of his own colleagues allegedly involved in the affair but there clearly is a need to properly investigate it."

There was also anger among Labour MPs over a vote in the



Man in the middle: Neil Hamilton, the MP who dropped his libel action over claims he took cash for questions

House of Lords for a change in a 300-year-old law which enabled Mr Hamilton to pursue his case. A Labour MP, Denis MacShane, wrote to Commons Speaker Betty Boothroyd calling for an urgent debate over

how parliamentary rules were changed "to benefit Mr Neil Hamilton" in his libel action. The Conservative Party insisted it was "a matter between Mr Hamilton and *The Guardian*".

Losing could have cost over £1m

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

Neil Hamilton and Ian Greer, who are many thousands of pounds the poorer after their disastrous encounter with the law of libel, might reflect that it could have been much worse.

The costs of losing after a three-to-four-week trial could have easily topped £1m. As the hard reality of the trial drew near, the signs of doubt appeared. Mr Greer approached the *Guardian* in the middle of last week offering to reduce his claim of £10m special damages for loss of business to £2.5m.

Mr Greer and Mr Hamilton had not at that stage fallen out - which they duly did in spectacular fashion by the end of the week. But there were growing expectations that whatever Mr Hamilton might want to do, Mr Greer was seeking a way out. There were also rumours that one or more of Mr Greer's former staff had turned against him.

Crunch point was looming by Thursday night after the newspaper obtained a court order for the Treasury solicitors to deliver a bundle of government documents relevant to the case. Among them was a minute of a telephone conversation between Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Hamilton during which Mr Heseltine (then President of the Board of Trade) had asked the

then trade minister whether he had ever received money from Mr Greer. Mr Hamilton said he had not.

Mr Heseltine did not, apparently, make a note of the conversation, but Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, is understood to have drawn up a minute. It appeared to contradict information in documentation obtained from Mr Greer.

The conflict of interest was crystallised and the breakdown in trust complete. Mr Hamilton was beside himself. Richard Ferguson QC, the pair's leading counsel, approached the newspaper over possible settlement.

Both men had been represented by Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners but were forced to seek separate solicitors to handle the latter stages of the mess. One consolation, though Mr Hamilton might not think so now, is that the ticking time-bomb was revealed before the trial began and clock-up even more costs.

Fighting the action would probably have been an uphill battle in any event, with a significant part devoted to attempting to discredit witnesses which the newspaper would have called to corroborate statements by Mohammed al-Fayed. Mr Hamilton tried to put a brave face on it yesterday after attending court to formally discontinue the action. "A man is innocent until proven guilty, except in the columns of the *Guardian*," he said.

significant shorts

Appeal to loyalists on ceasefire

The Government yesterday illustrated how seriously it regards the present threat to the loyalist ceasefire by appealing directly to the extreme Protestant groups not to return to violence.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the collapse of the ceasefire would have "dangerous consequences", but at the same time commended what he described as the self-discipline of the loyalists over the last two years.

Concern for the ceasefire, which was declared in October 1994, has grown since Monday's announcement by prisoners affiliated to the Ulster Defence Association, one of the two main Protestant paramilitary groups, that they were withdrawing their support from the peace process. *David McKelrick*

Firm sues over nuclear weapons 'leak'

Blue Circle, the industrial group, yesterday launched a multi-million pound damages claim against the Atomic Weapons Establishment for allegedly contaminating a site at Aldermaston - next to the plant where Trident warheads are made - with nuclear materials.

"High levels" of plutonium and uranium were found on the estate after ponds on the AWE land burst their banks during a rainstorm in 1989 and flooded marshes and a lake on the Blue Circle land.

A thousand cubic metres of soil contaminated with plutonium 1,000 times above normal background levels was excavated from the estate but the contamination continues and has halted any sale of the property and driven away customers, the High Court was told yesterday.

Charity attack on designer

A leading charity has criticised one of Britain's most acclaimed young designers for using "crass" imagery of a starving child on his clothes.

The photograph of a skeletal-thin African child is featured on the back of a jacket from Alexander McQueen's autumn/winter collection. Christian Aid's Head of Campaigns, John Jackson, said: "It is a sad image that is used meaninglessly and out of context. It is basically simply crass. If this jacket is designed to shock then it's worked on me. I think it is tasteless to turn famine into a fashion statement."

£200m drugs haul on boat

A cocaine seizure made on board a ship in Cork yesterday may be one of the biggest-ever drug consignments from South America to Europe, Irish customs sources said.

The value of the seizure on board the 60ft converted trawler, *Sea Mist* - which took shelter in the Irish port from a weekend storm on a journey from Venezuela - could top £200m.

The *Sea Mist* was thought to have been heading for Denmark, via the Kiel Canal. The drugs on board were reckoned to have been bound for the general European market, including Britain. Five arrests have been made.

At home with McCartney

The National Trust has applied for planning permission to open Paul McCartney's old home up to tourists. The trust bought the three-bedroomed terraced house in Forthlin Road, Allerton, Liverpool, last year.

McCartney lived there with brother Mike and their parents from 1955 until he soared to fame with the Beatles in 1963. He and John Lennon wrote *Love Me Do* and *I Saw Her Standing There* in the house.

A custodian will live in the house and deal with visitors, who will have to book tickets in advance and travel to the house by mini-bus from a car park two miles away.

Crime files on computer

The Metropolitan Police finally joined the microchip age yesterday, completing a London-wide network of 2,400 computers that can record details of crimes and link them across the capital.

But it is adopting a "Year Zero" approach to old crime data on the Crime Reporting Information System (CRIS), which means that information on burglaries, thefts and fraud stretching back six years, and held on paper at police stations around the city, will never be added to the system. Some police stations have reported problems in training staff to use the new equipment correctly. *Charles Arthur*

MoD training privatised

Helicopter pilots for the Army, Navy and Air Force will receive their basic flying training from a privately run training school from next April, in the MoD's biggest privatisation so far, it confirmed yesterday.

The £300m contract to run the tri-service Defence Helicopter Flying School and train 230 pilots, navigators and aircrew a year is expected to go to FBS Ltd, Armed Forces' Minister Nicholas Soames said. The privatisation of basic training is designed to save £77m over the next 15 years. *Christopher Bellamy*

'Cowboys' cost millions

Cowboy builders are costing the country £40m a year in unpaid taxes, as complaints about home improvements are rocketing, according to new research.

The report, commissioned by the AA, calls on Parliament, consumer groups and trade associations to implement a nine-point plan to combat cowboys. These include forcing tradesmen by law to supply detailed invoices, a requirement for insurance-backed warranties for work above a certain cost and experts settling simple disputes via an arbitration scheme. *Glenda Cooper*

Crisp-munching boys become Britain's youngest burglars

RICHARD SMITH and MICHAEL STREETER

Two boys aged four and five have earned the dubious distinction of being the country's youngest burglars after a householder returned home to find the diminutive would-be jewel thieves munching snacks and slurping soft drinks after having broken in through the kitchen door.

The culprits were young, but the scene greeting the woman who lived there was horribly reminiscent of any adult burglary. Valuables and food were scattered all over the floor and a broken window pane provided evidence of the crime.

The 37-year-old victim, of Kidderminster in Worcestershire, who asked not to be named, described what she had found when she returned home

after visiting a friend. "They had drunk half a bottle of champagne which they left on my bed. They had eaten a box of Terry's All Gold chocolates in the spare bedroom."

"They had taken five bags of crisps from the kitchen, had eaten most of them and scattered the rest over the sitting room floor. They had the jewellery in their hands and I presume they would have taken it," she said.

Describing the emotions of any householder whose home has been violated the woman, who had not previously been burgled in 13 years, said: "I just cried for the next two days - I was that upset somebody had been in my home and gone through my belongings. Much of the jewellery was of great sentimental value."

"I'm moving house soon and

I'll be glad to get out of here," she added.

"When I confronted them the boys didn't say a word but their faces looked guilty. If they are behaving like this at that age what will they be like when they are 16?"

Local police confirmed that in the incident late last week the two boys had broken in through the kitchen door - probably using an ornamental garden duck to break the glass - and had searched most of the rooms of the three-bedroom semi-detached council house in Foley Park before they were confronted by the owner.

"It is a bit unbelievable really isn't it?" Inspector Andy Mackillop of Kidderminster police asked.

"I can't recall four- and five-year-olds being involved in something like this before. It is

extraordinary for kids of this age to do that," he added.

After being interviewed, the children were given a "good dressing down" in front of their parents, he said, although because of their age no further action was being taken.

The four-year-old, who lives opposite the victim, received rougher justice from his family. His 41-year-old mother, who has five other children, admitted that she "smacked him with a belt when he came home".

"He has never done anything like this before and I felt very embarrassed," she said, adding, "My husband sent £15 across to pay for the glass to be mended."

"I don't think he will do anything like that again - especially with the policeman coming here and having a word with him."

Teenage murderer is allowed to die

IAN BURRELL

A teenage murderer who tried to kill himself in jail has been allowed to die in hospital after being kept alive on a life support machine in hospital for two days.

Andrew Sheehan, 18, from Northampton, had tried to hang himself in his cell at Swinfen Hall young offenders' institution, near Lichfield in Staffordshire, on Sunday. He was found by prison staff who cut him down and gave him mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Sheehan briefly regained consciousness but his condition deteriorated after he was taken to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment. He was placed on a life support machine but had suffered serious brain damage.

Doctors decided there was nothing more they could do and Sheehan was allowed to die at

1pm yesterday. The prison service said last night that it had begun an inquiry into the circumstances of the teenager's death.

Sheehan, who pleaded guilty to the murder, had been convicted in June of killing Stephen Reilly, a 66-year-old pensioner who was murdered in his flat after being subjected to two hours of torture. Oxford Crown Court heard that Sheehan had made two separate attacks on Mr Reilly at the retired Irish labourer's flat in Northampton one night last September.

In the attacks the teenager, who was 17 at the time, ripped out the pensioner's intercom telephone, took his keys and locked the door so that he could make no appeal for help. Returning later he beat, stabbed and stripped the elderly man, leaving him lying in a pool of blood.

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Will Beryl finally make the Booker?



Fourth time lucky? Beryl Bainbridge leads Booker shortlist with her novel about the Titanic, *Every Man For Himself*

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

One of the grande dames of English letters may finally win the Booker on fourth attempt after being shortlisted again last night for the literary world's most prestigious prize.

Beryl Bainbridge leads this year's six-strong shortlist with *Every Man For Himself*, her second fictionalised account of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

But other strong contenders on a list well received by critics are Graham Swift and Margaret Atwood, second favourites to win with *Last Orders* and *Alias*

Grace respectively. Both have been shortlisted before.

The other three in the running are Shena Mackay for *The Orchard On Fire*, Robinson Mistry for *A Fine Balance* and Derryn Hinch for *The Book of David*.

Unusually, the shortlist contains an equal number of men and women and the full possible complement of books.

Last year the judges could not agree on a sixth — speculated to have been Martin Amis's *The Information* — and only put up five.

This year debate centred around the absence of Ben El-

ton's bestselling satire on Hollywood film violence, *Popcorn*, which had made the longlist and been highly praised by one of the judges, A N Wilson.

But it was eventually rejected during a three-and-a-half hour meeting of the Booker's five judges at London's Saville Club.

The novelist Jonathan Coe, who sat on the panel, said: "Popcorn was put forward and discussed at great length and very vigorously. It was on our long list and had strong advocates."

"But it was [a pool of] a dozen from which we had to make a painful reduction. Some

of the books which were most hotly discussed did not make it on to the list. The ones with the least dispute were the ones which are on the shortlist."

The bottom line is "Which one did you enjoy reading the most?" Entertainment and pleasure were very high on our list when considering these books.

Another notable exclusion was A S Byatt, who won the 1990 Booker with *Possession* but whose *Babed Tower* failed to make the longlist.

David Malouf's *The Conversations At Carlow Creek*; John Lanchester's *The Debt To Pleasure* and a novel by another former Booker winner, Roddy Doyle, *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors* were also not on the list.

The £20,000 prize will be awarded on 29 October at a dinner to be filmed live by BBC2.

Last year it went to Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road*. Carmen Callin, the publisher, writer and broadcaster, chaired the judges who also included Ian Jack, editor of *Granta*, and A L Kennedy, the author.

She said: "It has been a wonderful year for fiction. There were at least 10 novels we argued about."

"We compromised as little as possible and still felt that we had made the right choice."

A short history of the five contenders for top publishing award

	Graham Swift: <i>Last Orders</i>	Margaret Atwood: <i>Alias Grace</i>	Beryl Bainbridge: <i>Every Man For Himself</i>	Robinson Mistry: <i>A Fine Balance</i>	Shena Mackay: <i>The Orchard On Fire</i>	Seamus Deane: <i>Reading in the Dark</i>
Subject	Mr. Bay and his wife, a young woman, are on a boat with Vince to throw up ashes of Jack Dods, a friend of Vince's, off the end of Margaret Pier.	Based on the life of the "celebrated" Grace Marks, convicted of the murder of her employer and his housekeeper in 1843 aged 16.	The sinking of the Titanic.	Two Hindu brothers and a Parsi student share a Bombay flat with a widow in the dark years of internal emergency in India in the 1970s.	Set in England during coronation year, Percy and Betty Henshaw have swapped their Streatsman for a Stonebridge house, but their young daughter is at risk.	Growing up Catholic in Londonderry in the 1940s and 1950s.
Critic's view	"A brilliant, witty, and moving novel... a masterpiece of the modern novel." — <i>The Independent</i>	"A novel that is both a historical document and a work of art... a masterpiece of the modern novel." — <i>The Independent</i>	"A novel that is both a historical document and a work of art... a masterpiece of the modern novel." — <i>The Independent</i>	"A novel that is both a historical document and a work of art... a masterpiece of the modern novel." — <i>The Independent</i>	"A novel that is both a historical document and a work of art... a masterpiece of the modern novel." — <i>The Independent</i>	"A novel that is both a historical document and a work of art... a masterpiece of the modern novel." — <i>The Independent</i>
Previous successes	<i>Waterland</i> , shortlisted for the Booker prize	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , Booker-shortlisted and film	Won the Whitbread Prize with <i>Injury Time</i>	Booker shortlist for <i>Such a Long Journey</i>	<i>Durand and The Laughing Academy</i>	This is his first novel
Background	Son of a civil servant, he decided to be a writer in his mid-20s. He used his English degree at Cambridge to learn to write and published his first novel aged 31, followed by <i>Waterland</i> two years later. Now 47, he lives in Wandsworth.	Studied American 19th-century literature at Harvard. Began her literary career as a feminist poet; early novels also dealt with the indignities inflicted on women by men. Lives in Toronto.	Born 1934 in Liverpool; began her career as an actress. Established her reputation as a novelist in the 1970s with <i>The Dressmaker</i> , <i>The Bottle Factory Outing</i> , and <i>Young Adolf</i> .	Born in Bombay in 1952, has lived in Canada since 1975.	Born in Edinburgh, she is author of two novels, three short story collections and six novels.	Born in Londonderry in 1940, he went to school with Seamus Heaney. Has published a number of works of criticism and poetry and is general editor of <i>Field Day</i> , an anthology of Irish writing. Teaches at University of Notre Dame, Chicago.
Odds	3-1	3-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	6-1

Doctors say it would take miracle to save Allwood babies

GLENDIA COOPER

The mother-of-eight is has been given drugs to avoid further miscarriages. Glenda Cooper reports

Doctors last night fought to keep Mandy Allwood's remaining babies alive, while admitting that it would need a "miracle" for them to be born safe and healthy.

Ms Allwood, 32, who lost three of her octuplets yesterday, is currently being treated with the drug indomethacin to stop uterus contractions which could lead to further miscarriages. Indomethacin can typically delay birth for hours or sometimes days, but Donald Gibb, her consultant obstetrician, did not expect the drugs to produce a "dramatic turnaround".

The three foetuses who died were all boys, each weighing less than 200 grammes, and each small enough to fit into the palm of a hand. Ms Allwood held them briefly after they were born.

Mr Gibb, of King's College Hospital, south-west London, said that there had been a "certain sense of inevitability" about Ms Allwood's condition. He said that unless the remaining foetuses survive in the womb for another five weeks there

could be little chance of saving them. "That is highly unlikely but we don't give up hope," he added.

Ms Allwood, who is 19 weeks pregnant, lost her first baby at home at 5pm yesterday. After advice from doctors over the telephone she was taken under police escort to hospital where the two other babies were stillborn.

An ultrasound scan yesterday morning revealed that the remaining five were alive. Ms Allwood, whose partner Paul Hudson was at her bedside, was described as being comfortable and resting.

Mr Gibb said that the miscarriages had occurred after Ms Allwood's uterus had become "very, very over-stretched" as the weeks went by and the membranes round the first baby had broken.

Asked what would happen next, he said: "It's entirely unpredictable. I could go up now and she could miscarry in minutes or hours, but then, maybe nothing will happen."

Ms Allwood's publicist, Max Clifford, said yesterday that she had no



Bereaved mother: Mandy Allwood who lost three of her eight babies.

warnings from doctors that she faced a major risk of premature delivery of miscarriage if she tried to go ahead with all eight births.

Dr Robert Forman, clinical director of the London Gynaecological and Fertility Centre, said patients like Ms Allwood had to be allowed to take their own decisions.

"I am firmly of the opinion that patients should be allowed to make informed decisions," he said. "I disagree with the decision she took, but respect her right to take it."

Condemned in the media, and pilloried by the moral majority, Ms Allwood's story is, in many ways, a morality tale of the 1990s — full of sex, greed, selfishness and inevitable grief. Aptly enough, Max Clifford summed up her story best: "The first person she contacted was her gynaecologist and the second was the PR," he remarked bluntly.

Ms Allwood's decision to carry all eight babies through to full term sparked two debates: first, whether her deal with the *News of the World* influenced her decision and secondly,



Paul Hudson: At his partner's bedside during her ordeal

who should be eligible for fertility treatment.

But, meanwhile, the public remained fascinated by the lurid twists and turns of the story. It emerged that Mr Hudson spent two nights a week with his former girlfriend and two sons. Then Ms Allwood was said to have lost custody of her five-year-old son to his father. Practically all their relatives told their

stories to the national press — and most of them in less than flattering terms.

It was Ms Allwood and her partner Paul Hudson who first courted the media approaching Central Television in Birmingham with the news that Ms Allwood was expecting octuplets. Realising from Central's interest what a story they had, the couple contacted PR agent Max Clifford who negotiated a deal with the *News of the World*, reputedly worth at least £350,000.

Ms Allwood appeared on the front page of the paper declaring: "I'm going to have all my eight babies" and defying her doctors' advice to have a selective reduction. Mr Clifford revealed he was hoping to raise up to £1m to sponsor the deal. But fears that the prospect of wealth and fame were impairing Ms Allwood's judgement were fuelled by talk of a "sliding scale" deal with the *News of the World*, whereby the more babies that were born, the more money she would receive. The paper denied this and said Ms Allwood

was free to withdraw from the deal if she wanted.

Specialists warned against a knee-jerk reaction to her case. Dr Peter Bromwich, medical director with Midland Fertility Services, said that it was not fair to deny people fertility treatment because they had unusual lifestyles.

"The essence of tragedy is inevitability," he said, "and there was nothing worse for people in our field watching Mandy Allwood from a distance knowing she was going to lose the pregnancy, knowing she was going to damage herself and powerless to intervene."

David Aaronovitch:
Can Tony Blair
fix an organic
deficit in
the
Shires?
Page 5

NATIONAL
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Investment
Ideas

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THE MOST
OF YOUR
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YESTERDAY AT THE CONFERENCE

- MAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- Three-week intensive literacy summer schools for primary age children
 - Low cost access to free information superhighway cables
 - Lottery proceeds to fund education, health and green projects
 - Labour to sign up to the European Social Charter by 1 January 1998

ROBERTS OF THE DAY

"The first wonder of the world is the mind of the child." Tony Blair.

"If all we have is what we own, not what we share, we are all the losers for it." Tony Blair.

"Any party that can abuse Emma Nicholson in the way that it did demonstrates the depths of its prejudice against women in politics." Clare Short.

"John Major is going to stand as John Bull. He may not have much beef in his manifesto but there will certainly be a lot of bull." Robin Cook.

"One of the most deceitful speeches in British political history - not a contract with Britain but a con trick on Britain." Michael Heseltine.

GOOD DAYS, BAD DAYS, DEVIL OF THE DAY



Rosemary Cooper, from H&M, won loudest cheers for a humble delegate with a speech on behalf of disabled.

Doug Hoyle, Labour parliamentary party chairman, revealed as recipient of money from Ian Greer.

Neil Hamilton, the cash-for-questions Tory MP, who upstaged the party on the front pages.

WIDE CROWD OF BURGERS ON THE RING

Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, Clare Short, Barbara Castle, Diane Abbott, Tony Banks (the stand-up comic, at the Tribune Rally).

Prat Michael Lean at Obesity: A Plague for the 21st Century? Free low-fat buffet in the Baronia Hall. 100 people, including slimline health spokesman Chris Smith.

ELECTION PLEDGE OF THE DAY

"Under Labour, women will become more prominent. That's an election pledge." Do you mean that? Janet Anderson, shadow minister for women in Daily Telegraph interview.

SINGLES PARTY SEEN AT

Sedgefield Labour Party reception: members only, including Tony Blair. **David Puttnam**, film producer at 1000 Club reception for £1000 donors.

ITN's late-night drinks at the Imperial Hotel.

SINGLES PARTY SEEN AT

Lord Tebbit, reporting mischievously for Sky TV. **David Puttnam**, film producer at 1000 Club reception for £1000 donors.

Ken Follet, novelist.

SINGLES PARTY SEEN AT

Tony Blair (leader) 6 min 9 secs 99 decibels

Robin Cook (foreign affairs) 1 min 39 secs 94 decibels

Clare Short (women) 46 secs 90 decibels

SINGLES PARTY SEEN AT

Transport, education, food, housing, local government and green issues: Barbara Castle versus Harriet Harman on pensions.

Compiled by John Rentoul

'This is my covenant with the British people. Judge me on it'



Leading light: Tony Blair being congratulated by his wife Cherie after yesterday's keynote address to conference

Photograph: Brian Hams

Anthony Bevins reports on Tony Blair's promises for a Labour government

Tony Blair yesterday promised an age of achievement for the new millennium - backed by an appeal for the voters to take courage and trust New Labour.

"Have the courage to change now," he said in a direct appeal to the television audience beyond the Blackpool party conference. "We are coming home to you. We are back as the party of the people; and that is why the people are coming back to us."

The heartfelt enthusiasm of the party delegates for the speech, belied that central message for the electorate - that Mr Blair by no means believes that the next election is in the bag.

"The British people want change. I am sure of that," he said. "But they need to trust us." For that reason, he then offered the voters a performance contract, a covenant for government, with 10 years to be delivered by the end of a five-year term of Labour government.

- To spend an increased proportion of national income on education;
- To reduce the slice of the welfare budget going on the results of social failure;
- To switch spending from health service bureaucracy to patient care;
- To reduce long-term unemployment and halve the number of young offenders from arrest to sentencing;
- To be financially prudent on borrowing and inflation;
- To keep tax promises;
- To cut primary school class sizes and raise school standards;
- To devolve power to Scotland, Wales and the English regions;
- To build a new and constructive relationship in Europe.

"That is my covenant with the British people," he said. "Judge

me upon it. The buck stops here. For the future, not the past. For the many, not the few. For trust, not betrayal. For the age of achievement, not the age of decline."

At the start of the speech, Mr Blair repeated the words of John Smith on the night before his death in May 1994: "A chance to serve, that is all we ask."

But he also offered a number of hard-edged developments in policy that would also be applied if Labour got elected: new plans for what he called a national grid for knowledge, a British-led drive to complete the European single market.

Mr Blair said his three priorities for government were education, education and education - with state schools no longer want to go private.

Having announced last year that he had reached an understanding with BT to cable schools, colleges and libraries on to the information superhighway, Blair said yesterday that the telephone costs of connecting up to the Internet had to be kept low and talks were being held with BT to ensure that was the case.

"The cables for free. The connections at low cost. Plans for computers." But Mr Blair said: "What matters in the end, though, is the educational material that comes down those cables, into those computers and into the mind of the child."

The Labour leader also took an initiative on the system of government, offering not higher government, but simple government. "We spend £300bn a year in the public sector," he said. "But a lot of what gov-

ernment does isn't about helping us achieve. It's stopping us achieving."

He promised a programme of reform to tackle the tangle of red tape and confusion created by Conservative local government reforms that have created more than 15 separate providers of local services. The proposals include low-cost information lines and "first-stop shops" that would simplify the delivery of information on public services. "If you are a young person leaving school, leaving home and looking for a job, you can have to contact 11 government offices, not one. Finding care for an elderly relative takes four stops, not one."

He also complained that a small engineering firm in Blackpool was spending as much on dealing with inspectors as it would hiring an extra member

of staff. With Mr Blair proclaiming Labour "the party of small business", the party proposes to cut compliance costs.

Following a successful and united debate on Europe, Mr Blair also promised to exploit the British EU presidency, due to start in January 1998, to complete the single market.

Marking out Labour's commitment to Europe, Mr Blair said: "Leave Europe, or retreat to its sidelines as these Tories want to do, and this country will lose its influence and inward investment. The Tories may glory in perpetual isolation. That's not standing up for Britain. That's betraying British interests."

Mr Blair said he was to begin discussions with European leaders in advance of the election so he could prepare to meet the 1998 deadline. "It means new opportunities for our firms and new jobs for our people. That is the best way to get the best out of Europe for Britain."

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It would be nice if he had just a little bit of spice

Things had definitely been looking up. First there was the stall from the Health Education Association, where a little young lady offers "on-site massage", then Labour's shadow spokesperson on women, Janet Anderson, appeared to suggest that women were as naturally promiscuous as men, and that a Labour government would recognise this interesting fact. This is, of course, a shameless attempt to win the votes of middle-aged women in the Shires, whose marriages to colonels and brokers have left them with an orgasm deficit.

But the real obstacle to Labour winning back the interesting Party label from the Clark/Norris Tories is, of course, its leader. Which may seem odd. After all Tony is handsome, sincere and caring: New Labour, New Man. Yet when I asked around, very few women admitted to fantasies of a naughty night with him. Instead they used words like unease and coldness. Tony is the sort of man their unromantic mothers always wanted to pair them off with.

And his image is certainly one of a stern patrifamilias: a man who says grace before supper, rather than ravishing Grace after. You can imagine him complaining to Cherie about too much sex on television: "I'm not a prude, but it's an unnecessary." Gordon, with his lascivious lips, probably actually has sex on the television, Paddy we all know about, and now Emma Nicholson has spilled the beans on the galloping Major. But Tony sounds as though he would like to merge the Labour Party with the Salvation Army and the Festival of Light. He is Cliff Richard with kids, the sort of man who'd get up during a rainy day at Wimbledon and sing "Summer Holiday".

Even those who do fancy him are disappointed, seeing him as being a bit like David Bowie in *The Man Who Fell To Earth* - a perfect specimen of a man, until he took his clothes off, to reveal a complete lack of useful protuberances. This absence of danger is one of the reasons why Tony has failed to maintain his popularity. Many look at the Tony red-eye posters



DAVID AARONOVITCH

and sigh, "if only".

So when a great secret door opened in the Minaret To Poplar Achievement, and the lumber figure with blond hair and delicate skin walked out, you could almost hear the women and gays in the audience willing Blair to strut his stuff, to be dangerous, to give it some dick.

And did he? Unfortunately an early reference to New Labour, New Members, turned out to be merely an expression of pleasure at the increased size of his party - *Thameside Labour*, if you like. His announcement that David Blunkett would set up a National Network of Millennium Volunteers (presumably charged with ushering in the next 1,000 years earlier than would have happened under the Tories) also felt Clifflish.

But then, I think, he started to connect - when he talked about visiting Dunblane and burning hand guns, and his father's illness and loyalty and all that. At which point I recalled being told about how he dances by a woman who knows: "He's not what you'd expect", she told me, "he holds you tight". Oh - and a leader who can say that the First Wonder of the World is the mind of a child, and mean it, is OK by me. Because it's true.

BARRIE CLEMENT and JOHN RENTOUL

Tony Blair's speech received widespread acclaim throughout Labour's political spectrum but there were still voices of caution and dissent. Even the comments of the most cynical of Mr Blair's enemies within the movement, however, could not compare with the virulence of the Tory reaction. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said: "It was a nasty spiteful speech, riddled with hypocrisy. Britain's middle classes will not be fooled."

Some union leaders were relieved, but others suspicious that Mr Blair's address contained no reference to the link between the party and the unions.

While most trade unionists said publicly that the leader's address was a triumph, behind the scenes they pointed to the one issue which seemed to be absent and which had opened up deep divisions during the Trades Union Congress meeting.

Warnings that the address would contain reference to the further weakening in the relationship proved groundless. However, union delegates forecast that state funding of parties would probably become a priority for a Labour cabinet which would sever the financial umbilical cord between the party and its affiliates.

The speech received a carefully balanced response from the Confederation of British Industry. A statement said: "The CBI welcomes the fact that Tony Blair highlighted education and training as a clear priority for a

Acclaim spiked by union voices of caution

THE REACTION

future Labour government. The employers' body also welcomed the promise to complete the European single market, but said it remained opposed to the Social Chapter and plans for a national minimum wage.

Paul Clarke, a Labour delegate from Windsor sporting an "old Labour" T-shirt, joined reluctantly in the standing ovation. He said: "I'm behind him as leader, but he is very much on probation."

John Monks, TUC general secretary, welcomed the commitment to legislation on workers' rights at an "early" stage of a Labour government.

More surprisingly support came from Lew Adams, left-wing leader of Aslef, the train drivers' union, and recently one of Mr Blair's most vociferous critics. He described the address as a "political tour de force" and said: "Tony has managed to weld together his vision of future progress with many of the values so important to the party's past."



Union support: Monks (above) and Adams



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Cook backs off joining new currency at launch

Change signalled as Euro-debate turned to jobs, reports John Rentoul



Robin Cook: Delights party Photograph: Brian Harris

A Labour government would not join a single European currency at its launch, senior pro-Europeans close to Tony Blair have accepted.

The evidence of a shift in the Labour leader's thinking came as Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary, yesterday told delegates that "jobs will be the bottom line" in judging whether Britain should take part in monetary union.

Mr Cook, the Shadow Cabinet's most powerful sceptic on monetary union, signalled his views in a short passage in a sparkling speech which delighted delegates with a sustained attack on Conservative divisions over Europe.

Mocking John Major's call for a debate on the "big issues", including Europe, Mr Cook said: "Over the summer Norman Lamont has called Ted Heath a dinosaur. Hugh Dykes has called Norman Lamont a pantomime figure. Norman Tebbit has called Geoffrey Howe a poodle. Edwina Currie has called Bill Cash a nutter. This is the Tory party having a serious debate about a big issue."

Mr Cook skilfully skirted Labour divisions on the issue, while hinting at his own doubts about Britain's ability to join the Euro, saying: "If the Maastricht

treaty can set targets for deficits on government spending, then why should it not set objectives for those same governments to tackle unemployment?"

Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, have rejected the idea of targets for cutting unemployment.

As the Euro debate rages behind the scenes, with the Labour leader holding the ring between his two heavyweight shadow ministers, Mr Cook and Mr Brown, the argument seems to have moved on from whether Britain should join in the first wave in how long

try should be postponed.

A senior Labour pro-European said Mr Blair was likely to seek to join "within a year" of the launch of a single currency, due in January 1999. Previously Mr Cook has spoken of the failure of the British economy to keep up with Germany over the past 30 years, suggesting a delay measured in decades.

Mr Blair made clear in his speech that the single currency "will only come with the full consent of the people". He is thought to accept that a referendum on the issue could not be won in the near future.

In his speech, Mr Cook announced the appointment of Sir Michael Butler, the former British ambassador to the EU who renegotiated the terms of Britain's entry into the EEC for Harold Wilson, as Labour's special envoy to countries wanting to join the union.

He introduced video endorsements of Labour from three European leaders - Wim Kok of the Netherlands, Antonio Guterres of Portugal and Franz Vranitzky of Austria - and challenged Mr Major to find three who would send a similar message to the Tory conference.

City gets the best seats at £1,000 a time

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

Some of the best seats in the house yesterday afternoon were reserved for a large group of City businessmen, bankers, lawyers, advertising executives and media moguls. The cost: £1,000 each.

Called the 1,000 Club by New Labour fund-raisers, they included Greg Dyke, head of Channel 5, David Putnam, the film producer, Roger Pannone and Henry Hodge, star solicitors and Brian Basham, a City public relations adviser.

Last night, the 100 or so members of 1,000 Club in Blackpool - the club has around 300 members - attended a dinner hosted by Jack Cunningham, the shadow heritage secretary. Tony Blair was due to put in an appearance to thank them for their cash.

City firms which in the past would not have dreamt of allowing their people to attend a Labour conference were only too happy for them to be there.

'At least we are in the 1,000 Club and have given £1,000 - you don't get the Tories saying that'

especially as they are not formally required to join the party.

Most of those present were committed Labour supporters. Not all, however. One member told *The Independent* he did not agree with everything the party stood for but regarded the opportunity to rub shoulders with the leaders of the next government as too good an opportunity to miss.

The £1,000, he said, was money well spent, an investment for the future. In contract-making terms, an absolute bargain.

Another member, Stephen Kinsella, the Brussels partner of Herbert Smith, a firm of City lawyers, said he supported Labour - he loved Mr Blair's conference speech - but there was another side to his being there. "Good networking is also part of the point of it," he said.

Apart from being fêted at the annual conference, 1,000 Club members are invited to a garden party in the summer. In Brussels this year, there was a reception for the club's European members.

In forming the 1,000 Club -



Star attraction: Tony Blair speaks, admired by Glenda Jackson

Photograph: Brian Harris

it is still in its infancy - Labour is stealing yet another march on the Tories. At their conference, the Tories also had their donors, inviting them to lunch with the party treasurers, to

meet ministers and, on the final day, ushering them into prime seats for Mr Major's address.

There is one difference between the parties. Labour's

1,000 Club members are clearly identified by their badges. There is no mistaking who they are, or the depth of the party's debt to them. Conservative donors re-

main anonymous and secret. "At least we go about saying we are in the 1,000 Club and have given £1,000 - you don't get the Tories saying that," Mr Kinsella said.

Women lose out on safe seats

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Discrimination against women has resurfaced in the Labour Party since an industrial tribunal ruled that its policy of using women-only short lists for parliamentary selections was unlawful.

Only eight women have been picked to stand in the 31 winnable or safe seats where candidates have been picked since the Leeds tribunal decision last January.

A succession of women delegates yesterday denounced as "shameful" the action of the two male party members who challenged the women-only shortlists. But the decision of the National Executive Committee not to appeal against the ruling was not criticised.

Instead, Labour in government may change the law, to permit positive discrimination in order to get more women into Parliament. Several overseas systems of achieving balance are being studied. One route might be through an up-dated Sex Discrimination Act.

Clare Short, chair of the NEC Women's Committee, said that exhortation to select more women, positive action to train women or to ensure there were more on shortlists, did not produce results.

"Every country that has made progress on this issue has used some kind of quota system to deliver the change," she said. Norway and Sweden had led the way and now had sister parties in power made up of 50-50 men and women.

Labour has made progress towards equality. The NEC now has a balance of the sexes and well over half the constituency party delegates at Blackpool this week are women - 425 compared with 320 men.

But the glaring bastion of discrimination for all political parties remains the House of Commons. Only 10 per cent of the 651 MPs are women. Ms Short noted that she was one of only 187 women ever elected to the Commons.

"Despite some sniping from the sidelines, we have selected 112 women candidates, 43 of whom are likely to win," she said. Labour could have about 80 women MPs after the election - around 25 per cent of its total. However, much of the increase will be the result of the now outlawed policy of all-women shortlists in half of all winnable seats. Since then the proportion of women selected has plummeted.

"Anyone who thought our culture had changed so we could achieve equality without a mechanism has been disappointed," Brenda Etchells said on behalf of the NEC.

Elizabeth Donnelly-Luff, of Oxford East CLP, said women would be "lucky to get a look-in" in remaining selections, while other speakers demanded legislation.

Unions, which commands nearly 10 per cent of the conference vote, decided to abstain if the issue is forced to a vote. The constituency parties, however, were thought to be ready to back the motion which has been endorsed by Baroness Castle, the former Labour cabinet minister.

TURKISH DELIGHT.



INGREDIENTS:
For this you need one woman and a handful of Turkish policemen.

METHOD:
Blindfold woman.
Put gun to neck and threaten to kill.
Strip. Aim cold water jet at sensitive parts.
Beat till hospitalised.
Visit and beat in her hospital bed.
Leave in wheelchair.

Gulbahar Gunduz was accused of belonging to an illegal Marxist party. After the ordeal detailed above, her torturers kicked her so hard in the back that she collapsed. They carried her to court on a blanket, hardly able to speak.

She was taken to hospital. The doctor said her life was in danger, but staff had to stop her police guards beating her in her hospital bed.

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Blunkett's young millennium army of 100,000

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

A task force of 100,000 young people will be pressed into service as "Millennium Volunteers" in the first three years of a Labour government, the party's education and employment spokesman will announce today. David Blunkett's speech to the conference will call for 30,000 18 to 25-year-olds to sign up for six months' service in each of the years leading up to the end of the century. A Labour government would ask them to carry out environ-

mental projects, to help the elderly and also to work with the homeless.

Some would be recruited from among the long-term unemployed; others would be students taking a year off between school and university.

All the major voluntary organisations and other charities would be asked to get involved in the scheme.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, has long been keen to set up a programme of citizens' service for young people. He announced the proposal in his first conference speech as

party leader two years ago. Also in Mr Blunkett's speech will be plans for 25 regional centres of excellence for nursery-age children. These would combine the roles of both childcare and education, and would also train teachers and other staff to raise standards.

Labour has pledged to provide at least part-time nursery education for all four-year-olds and to set targets to get three year-olds into classes as well.

The party will also set targets for literacy and numeracy which all 11-year-olds will be expected to meet.

Today, Mr Blunkett will announce that children who fall behind at primary school will be asked to attend summer classes during the holidays to help them catch up. The programme would be similar to the "University of the First Age" already being run on a voluntary basis in Birmingham. The plan drew criticism from the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, yesterday. She said that most of the areas in which children were failing were already being run by Labour.

"A three-week summer camp - a mere gimmick - cannot re-

tify years of misrule in the Labour town halls, misrule which would be repeated throughout the land in the unlikely event of Labour ever being in government," she said.

Unions last night began to rally to the support of the Labour leadership on the issue of pensions, in an attempt to avert a first defeat for the platform.

Mr Blair is anxious to avoid a conference decision today which would commit the party to a link between state pensions and figures for national earnings.

The party was trying to per-

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A breathless hush in the close tonight ...

(Except for a few 44-ton lorries)

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

A last-minute High Court challenge is being launched to prevent the construction of the Salisbury by-pass in Wiltshire which environmentalists say will destroy water meadows which are rich in several rare species of plant and a Site of Special Scientific Interest - and were immortalised by Constable's painting *Salisbury Cathedral: From the Meadows*.

The £76m bypass on the A36 is expected to be given the go-ahead by ministers in the next few weeks, but Friends of the Earth has been granted leave to challenge the Department of Transport over its refusal to release a report on whether it will increase traffic. Traffic generation has become a key factor in assessing plans since an advisory committee to the DoT reported last year that new roads do attract extra journeys. Since the Sacra report, all schemes have had to be reassessed but the DoT has refused to publish the new evidence in this case. It has been given until 21 October to file papers giving the reason for not releasing the report, which FoE says it must do under European legislation.

The decision to approve the Salisbury by-pass is expected "within weeks" according to the DoT, a sign that it may be announced at next week's Tory party conference by Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, who is known to be in favour of the scheme.

In the past couple of years half of the road programme has been scrapped because of Sacra and budget cuts, and only a handful of new starts are expected this year. Campaigners against the Salisbury road argue that it is no longer part of a plan to link Southampton with Bristol. Simon Lyster, director general of the Wildlife Trusts, said: "This bypass will not solve Salisbury's traffic problems but it will destroy irreplaceable wildlife habitat."

Immortalised by Constable, threatened by juggernaut: Environmentalists claim the 11-mile bypass will not solve Salisbury's problems, which are caused by local not long-distance traffic

Messages from Moscow: Impact of Soviet agents revealed Top-secret files lift the lid on Cold War espionage

JOHN CROSSLAND

A glimpse into the hall of mirrors of Cold War Intelligence was provided yesterday when secret cipher documents between KGB spymasters in Moscow and their agents in Britain and America were opened to the public.

Documents from GCHQ, the Government's communication headquarters, confirmed the identity of two important Russian agents and reveals a third, hitherto unknown.

Some 57 files, all stamped Top Secret, were released at the Public Record Office in Kew, detailing the impact on Britain of the traitors Guy Burgess, Donald McLean and Kim Philby, who passed thousands of documents relating to security to Moscow.

Also released were documents from a programme set up in the US in 1945 to check and decipher Soviet transmissions.

Codenamed Venona, it operated at Arlington Hall, Virginia. In 1948, Britain started working with the Americans and the joint programme was disbanded in 1950. The operation monitored the activities of atom spies like Klaus Fuchs, Theodore Hall and others whose activities meant Russia was able to explode its first nuclear device in September 1949.

The papers show that Fuchs was an active agent in 1941, at which time he was working in Birmingham under a Russian agent code-named Sonia.

When the Cambridge-based physicist joined the top secret Manhattan Project in the US to work on the atomic bomb, he was one of an elite team of scientists and Nobel prize winners, led by Robert Oppenheimer, at Los Alamos, New Mexico. Also on the team was British-based physicist Theodore Hall, a US citizen but also a Moscow agent.

He and Fuchs succeeded in passing almost every aspect of the bomb and its construction methods to their controllers.

Fuchs's codename was Charles, and four and a half months before the first bombs levelled Hiroshima and Na-



Mushroom cloud: Information from spies was vital to Soviet atom scientists. Right: The notorious British spy Kim Philby



gasaki in August 1945, Russia was praising his work.

A cable to New York from Moscow centre in April 1945 said: "Charles's information on the atomic bomb is of great value. Apart from the data on the explosive and on the details of the explosive method of actuating BAL [Balloon, a codename], it

'Charles's information on the atom bomb is of great interest. We also wish to establish the following...'

contains information received for the first time from you about the electro-magnetic method of separation of Enormuz [the Atomic Energy Project].

"We wish in addition to establish the following: What kind of fusion - by means of fast or slow neutrons?"

Meanwhile, Hall, who was codenamed Mlad, had passed on details of the plants and manufacturing methods at the six factories building the bombs.

Fuchs was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment at the Old

to how much of their cable traffic was being monitored.

His identity was revealed in December last year by the Americans.

The papers make frequent references to Philby, Burgess and McLean, whose treachery is known to have cost the lives

of hundreds of agents and almost severed relations between the US and British security services. The Americans were appalled at the number of breaches in security coming from Britain and openly expressed reluctance to become involved in joint operations.

McLean was working at the British embassy in Washington passing details of policy over the future of occupied territories back to his masters.

He stole cables at the highest security level. Because of the Russian espionage system's use of one-time code pads, just how much he had stolen was not finally discovered until July 1965.

Of the 2,200 signals released today, many are mere scraps, some with only a single word identified. But over time, the key senders were identified by their codenames. McLean was Homer, Burgess was Hicks, and Philby was Stanley.

In September 1945, Moscow centre was in a panic following the defection in Canada of Igor Gouzenko, which prompted a major spy-hunt as he revealed secrets to the Canadians.

Moscow mounted a damage-limitation exercise in all areas, including Britain, instructing controllers to cut down on meetings and warning agents to take greater care. Philby, who held a senior post in British intelligence, passed back that the defection had caused disruption and led to the introduction of counter-measures. At the same time, Moscow sent a new agent, codenamed Boris, to Britain to act as controller of a British spy known as Johnson.

General Pavel Fitin, head of Moscow centre, was worried whether the two would get on. He insisted that meetings with Philby and Burgess should not be increased in case they were spotted by intelligence watchers.



Tales from the front-line:
Hard lessons from an
inner-city school. Page 8

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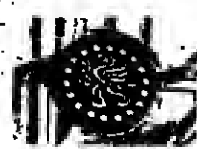
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news



131 encounter: Judges walk from a service at Westminster Abbey to the Palace of Westminster for their traditional, annual breakfast with the Lord Chancellor to mark the start of the legal year

Photograph: Tom Pilsten

BMA meeting: Plea on greater use of chemotherapy

Thousands die needlessly from breast cancer

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor, in Istanbul

Thousands of women are missing out on life-saving drug treatment for breast cancer despite incontrovertible evidence that it can reduce the spread of the disease and increase chances of survival.

The cure rate could be increased by as much as 30 per cent if more women were given chemotherapy early in the course of the disease, in addition to removal of the tumour. Margaret Gilchik, a surgeon from St Mary's Hospital in London, said yesterday.

However, more than half of

women across all age groups treated in NHS hospitals still did not have chemotherapy. Mrs Gilchik accused some surgeons and radiotherapists of being lazy, and giving inappropriate or incomplete treatment because they failed to recognise breast cancer as a systemic (whole body) disease.

Britain has one of the worst rates of breast cancer in the world, and spread of the disease from the primary tumour to the bone, liver and other organs is responsible for most of the 15,000 deaths each year.

Chemotherapy has been shown to wipe out the tiny "tumour seeds" - cancer cells which break off from the breast tumour and lodge in bone and elsewhere - in a majority of patients. A ground-breaking study by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund published in 1992 concluded that chemotherapy in early breast cancer would save thousands of lives worldwide.

But the emphasis has continued to be on surgical removal of the cancer and radiotherapy to wipe out any remaining cancerous cells in the breast. Mrs Gilchik told the British Medical Association's Annual Clinical Meeting yesterday.

About 25,000 women a year develop breast cancer, and about a third of cases are in pre-menopausal women. They tend to have more aggressive tumours and respond less well to surgery and radiotherapy than post-menopausal women, which is why early chemotherapy is vital in that group.

In addition, very few younger women benefit from tamoxifen, a hormonal drug which has been credited with the falling

death rate from breast cancer in older women in recent years, although some doctors prescribe it anyway.

Mrs Gilchik said that all women with breast cancer, regardless of age, should receive chemotherapy except for those with small, localised tumours which had not spread from the breast to the lymph nodes. Aggressive triple therapy - surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy - was a treatment of choice.

Chemotherapy was associated with distressing side-effects, Mrs Gilchik said, but the worst, such as violent nausea and hair loss, could be reduced with other drugs or treatment.

The poor standard of treatment for breast cancer in British hospitals was a result of the disease falling between two specialities, surgery and radiotherapy. The role of the surgeon was declining and radiotherapists were developing into oncologists - cancer physicians with expertise in the administration of chemotherapy as well as radiotherapy.

"Radiotherapists are very much better now and breast specialists [surgeons who do only breast surgery] are going to make a big difference," Mrs Gilchik said. The development of cancer units across the country as centres of excellence serving smaller hospitals, as envisaged by the Calman Report, was also important.

Mrs Gilchik, one of only a handful of women surgeons in the country, also criticised the number of mastectomies still being carried out. A lumpectomy, followed by radiotherapy was at least as effective as removal of the whole breast, she said.

Inner city pupils stunted by gap in growth and development

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Public school heads, including those from exclusive fee-paying schools such as Winchester and Eton, heard yesterday of the daily battle against poverty and emotional neglect waged by teachers in inner city schools.

Dee Palmer-Jones, head of Brackenhoe School, a Middlesbrough comprehensive for 11 to 16-year-olds, told the annual Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference in Glasgow that many of her pupils were two years behind their contemporaries physically and emotionally. They were two inches shorter than average, weighed less and had vitamin deficiencies. Fifty eight per cent were on free school meals.

The school's counsellor, who visited several schools, had told her of a boy who was very thin and whose behaviour was poor. He told the counsellor that his mother was very ill with cancer. When the counsellor visited the mother, it turned out she had made up the story that she had cancer. If he was naughty, she said the cancer would come back. In fact, she had an eating disorder and never cooked the boy a hot meal.

Then there was the family visited because of concern about school attendance where seven children had only one bed. Six slept on the floor on piles of clothes. Social services had provided beds but the father, before he left, sold them for cash. The school was within eight miles of the coast yet there were pupils in the first year who had never seen the sea.

Brackenhoe School was far from unique, she added. She knew from other inner-city heads that drug dealers were now giving children drugs on credit. When they could not pay back the money, they were threatened with violence and, in the case of girls, forced into prostitution.

Inner city heads were afraid to speak out for fear of alienating the few parents of children at their schools who were not deprived. "There is a belief, often articulated by politicians, that poverty isn't an excuse for poor achievement. Research shows that there is a correlation between deprivation and low educational achievement."

Her staff, however, were

working hard to overcome pupils' disadvantages. There was a homework centre after school, residential visits for outdoor pursuits, the arts and for pupils with difficulty making relationships. There were 12 lunchtime supervisors trained to befriend pupils and listen to their problems.

She said: "We cannot afford to have an underclass with so little surrounded by images of prosperity and materialism."

Canon Peter Hullah, head of Chethams School, Manchester, said: "It was very impressive because it was for real. It gave me many ideas about how to cope with children from a great range of backgrounds."

Earlier, Professor Richard

Best universities 'must be elitist'

Elitism is the only way to keep Britain's best universities at the forefront of learning, Professor Alec Broers, Cambridge's new vice-chancellor, said yesterday.

Leading universities needed the best students, the most brilliant professors and the highest standard of facilities to stay ahead.

"No one who has the guts to ask for the best can escape being accused of elitism," Professor Broers said on his first day in the post. "Egalitarianism is naturally desirable when votes are to be gained, but it snuffs out the flame of inspiration and is the executioner of the first division."

Professor Broers said top universities must receive a bigger slice of the budget to remain as centres of excellence. The Government was spreading money across too many universities for political reasons.

Whitfield, head of St George's House, an independent think-tank at Windsor Castle, urged heads to jettison some academic subjects and teach pupils to manage relationships. Boys in particular, he said, suffered from emotional illiteracy.

He said we had entered "a new darker age of widespread child emotional neglect", with too many parents neglecting children because they were too busy or under too much stress. The problem applied as much to pupils in independent schools as those in inner cities.

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Opera and ballet are the hottest tickets

Marianne Macdonald on a surge in popularity over the past decade

Opera and ballet have undergone a resurgence of popularity over the past decade, the Arts Council's annual report reveals today.

It cites surveys that show the number of adults who go to the opera in England has soared by 28 per cent to 2.6 million since 1986, while the number who attend ballet is up by 19 per cent to 2.7 million.

Successes such as those of Matthew Bourne's all-male *Swan Lake* and Jonathan Miller's *Carmina* at the English National Opera are thought to have contributed to the trend.

The arts generally are thriving, with the number of people who go to art exhibitions and classical music concerts also at their highest levels for 10 years, the Target Group Index research shows.

Last year, 8.7 million people said they went to art exhibitions, a rise of 9 per cent from 1986. Similarly, 5 million said they went to classical music concerts, up by 7 per cent.

The results come despite cuts in funding for the arts, about which the "luvvies" have complained bitterly. Among them is Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the impresario responsible for the runaway musical successes *Cats*, *Miss Saigon* and *Les Misérables*, and arguably the world's most successful theatre producer.

His warning in the same Arts Council report that "the fabric of British theatre, built up over so many decades, has been eroded to a point where the system is like a worn sock" may be supported by the research which shows that, in

contrast, theatre attendances in the surveyed period stayed flat. Last year 9.5 million people said they went to plays, a rise of only 4 per cent since 1986 - equivalent to the rise in the adult population. The size of the audience for contemporary dance was also effectively static - 1.6 million, up 4 per cent.

It is not clear why theatre should have been at a standstill, though some say drama in England has been over-reliant on old favourites in recent years and has not put sufficient investment into innovation.

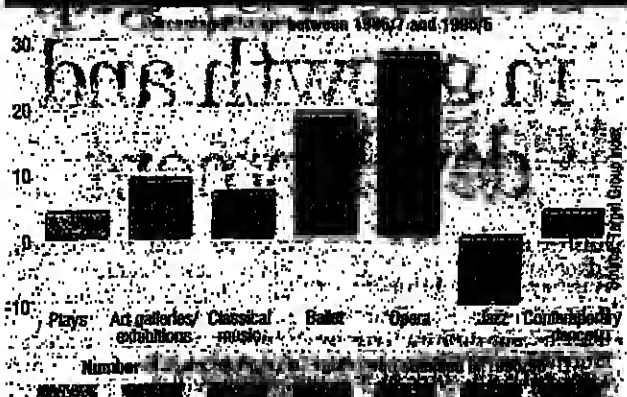
In June, Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, argued in a speech in the House of Lords that lack of proper revenue funding for the arts would inevitably lead to a fall in attendances.

"However much foreign visitors admire your actors, actresses and musicians, they will not indefinitely support non-comfortable, non-air conditioned, tatty theatres," he said.

Lord Gowrie writes in the report that the arts are Britain's third or fourth most important industry, and, if taken with leisure and tourism, equal to the oil, pharmaceuticals and financial services industries.

"So when you read a snide leader in the *Sun* or *Daily Mail* about lottery grants, or tales of 'luvvies' lining each other's pockets', please remember that 'luvvies' of one kind or another are seeing to it that Britain is boxing above her weight in the world as well as contributing hugely to her economy. Only perhaps the Sovereign carries as much moral weight beyond our shores as our artists."

WHERE THE AUDIENCES WENT



Prada on parade: The British model, Kate Moss, shows off the Italian designer's latest ready-to-wear collection in Milan. Photograph: Luca Bruno/AP

Modelled on the catwalks of Milan ... coming soon to Britain's high streets

TAMSI BLANCHARD
Fashion Editor

Milan fashion week focuses around the collections of just a handful of designers who are some of the most influential and directional in the world. The clothes they send down the catwalk this week will be absorbed by magazine stylists, photographers and other image makers, as well as by the companies that mass manufacture High Street clothes that don't cost the earth and that most people buy and wear.

Prada, which showed yesterday morning, is one of these super labels. Such is its influence that a model need only cough on the catwalk and the rest of the fashion world will break into mass coughing fits. A single unassuming 40-something woman, Minnie Prada is responsible for much of what we have seen on the High Street for the past few seasons - from the current crop of antiqued leather shoes that are featured in chain stores from Miss Selfridge to Ravel, to the strange Seventies' abstract prints in stores like Oasis.

It all happens in a tiny white showroom in a back street in Milan. The crowds gather early, desperate for a glimpse of the Prada look for spring/summer 97. Deadpan models walk down the catwalk like automatons, dressed in wispy lengths of sheer chiffon and Imperial Chinese style three inch platform wedge sandals.

The detail of the shoes is important - only a small number of women will be able to afford the real thing, but the style will be copied and mass marketed in a shop or market stall near you by high summer.

The collection also includes mandarin collar chiffon cardigans, transparent empire line chiffon dresses that would have been worn as underslips by a Jane Austen heroine, bamboo brocade, silk skirts and narrow Cheongsam dresses worn over floaty chiffon trousers, oriental flower embroideries, and the Prada trademark military uniform. Prada's success has been increasing every year since the introduction of a women's wear line in 1989.

Before that, the privately owned family company set up by Miuccia Prada's grandfather, specialised in leather goods. By the end of the decade, cosmetics, perfume, lingerie and the home collection will have been added to the empire. This year, the company plans to expand worldwide adding 35 new stores to the existing 61. By next year, sales are expected to increase from this year's £500m to £730m.

Design duo Dolce & Gabbana and stylist Krizia today unveil their latest collections.

Modern bards line up for battle

CHARLIE BAIN

Bob Dylan's *Blowing in the Wind* and John Betjeman's *Slough* are to battle it out over the next 10 days for the crown of favourite post-war poem in a BBC poll celebrating the third National Poetry Day.

Bookmakers William Hill are compiling the odds for the showdown, with John Lennon's

Imagine, WH Auden's *Stop all the Clocks* and Ted Hughes's *Thought Fox* among the other leading contenders. The winner will be decided on the basis of votes cast by people who telephone a special BBC hotline.

In a similar poll last year to find out the all-time favourite, Rudyard Kipling's *If* was the clear winner. More than 7,500 people voted for around 1,000

different poems. "Last year lots of people voted for the classic poems they remember with affection from school and modern poetry didn't get a look in," said the BBC's Daisy Goodwin. "This year we're testing the poetry boom: is poetry the new rock 'n' roll or is rock 'n' roll the new poetry? Who is more relevant, Bob Dylan or Philip Larkin, and how far have the lines of demarcation between words and lyrics been blurred?"

"I want people to feel free to nominate anything from Nobel prize winners to rock lyrics - just as long as it's no more than 50 years old." Lines are open from noon today until noon on Thursday, 10 October, with the winner being announced in a special BBC1 programme on Friday, 11 October. To vote call 0891 555300 (maximum cost 26p).

DAILY POEM

Haiku (2)

Cicadas singing - stridulations drill the rocks - how quiet it is

Matsuo Basho

The enormous kite did not find its real soul until the string snapped

Mutsuo Takahashi

I need one word acting as a wedge to start the year's first haiku

Shugyo Takaha

When I pinch the wings of this butterfly, it feels like nothing on earth

Yosa Buson

Despite its brevity, the *haiku* is a tough and resilient form, its 17 syllables (5-7-5) capable of an infinite variety of tones and rhythms, writes James Kirkup. Nothing should be added, nothing taken out in translation. Alas, some English *haiku* amateurs have been misled by William Higginson's outdated, pedantic *Haiku Handbook*, which authorises his readers to dole out "free-form" verses, following an obscure Japanese academic's theories about *onji* (phonograms) which no native poets have ever heard of. Matsuo Basho and Yosa Buson are two of the great classic *haiku* poets, born in the 17th and 18th centuries respectively. Mutsuo Takahashi is Japan's greatest living poet.

James Kirkup is president of the British Haiku Association. His anthology of classic, modern and contemporary *haiku*, *A Certain State of Mind* is published by the University of Salzburg Press. The British Haiku Association can be contacted at Smeaton, Salford, Braintree, Essex CM7 5HN.

Rewriting the script for peace in the Holy Land. Page 11

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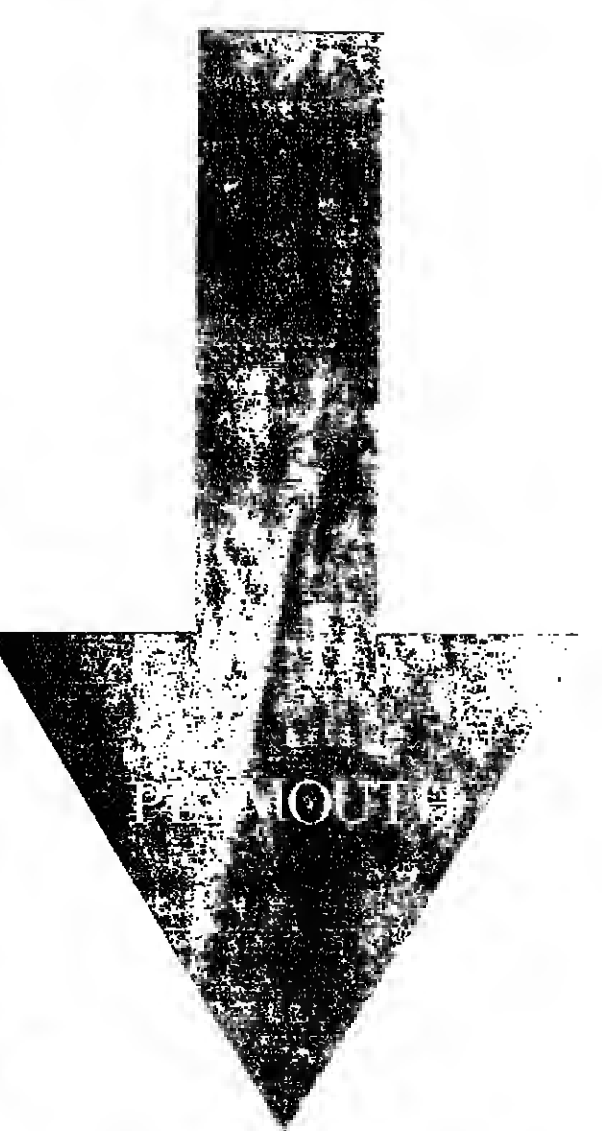
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Summit aims to resuscitate peace

Clinton opens face-to-face talks

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

President Bill Clinton and the leaders of Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan began their unscripted emergency summit here yesterday to salvage peace in the Middle East, amid some signs of Israeli readiness to negotiate on key issues, but with no guarantee of a successful outcome.

Mr Clinton opened the summit by praising the leaders for attending at short notice. "No one wants to turn back," he said of the faltering peace process. He told reporters that the summit would conclude today with a statement but gave no indication what impact it might have. "I don't want to say anything that will make our task harder."

The discussions, planned to last two days, began with a series of bilateral meetings in the Oval Office between Mr Clinton and first King Hussein of Jordan, then Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and finally Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman.

After that, the four were due to meet as a group before breaking up for separate, more detailed discussions at Blair House, just across from the White House. The discussions were being supervised by Warren Christopher, United States Secretary of State, and Ambassador Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's top Middle East specialist.

But as the parties got down to business, US officials were holding out no promise of any breakthrough. No specific agenda exists, and such is the mutual suspicion between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat that they might not be able to meet face-to-face without intermediaries.

The most hopeful notes have come from Mr Netanyahu, who on his way here indicated a readiness to negotiate on withdrawal from Hebron, easier border passage for Palestinians with jobs in Israel, and the opening of an airport in the Gaza Strip.

But as usual he offered no concessions, and remains adamant that the tunnel near the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem will stay open - a stance that both kept President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt away from the meetings and casts doubt over whether anything can be achieved here this week. The peace process was in "a very bad way right now", White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

With the stakes raised higher still for Mr Clinton by the approaching US presidential elections, Washington is deliberately taking a minimalist view of proceedings. Given the level of mistrust between them, even a frosty public handshake by Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat will be presented as a measurable diplomatic success.

US officials hope the two men can find a formula to end the violence in the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, and agree to give new impetus to talks aimed at implementing existing peace accords. These have been dragging on for months, getting nowhere. On the tunnel, the best hope is for an international commission to examine the problem.

In a further effort to promote progress here, the White House has asked participants to make no public comment on the talks before they wrap up tonight. Whether that gag rule holds is questionable, however, and senior foreign policy advisers to Republican candidate Bob Dole are showing no such restraint.

Mr Dole says merely that the US should not pressure "our friend" Israel into unilateral concessions, and should confine itself to the role of honest broker. But former defense secretary Dick Cheney and other Dole foreign policy experts on Monday unleashed a public harangue at Mr Clinton, saying that the unravelling of the Middle East peace accords - one of the President's most trumpeted foreign policy successes - proved his incompetence in foreign affairs.



Centre of contention: US tourists take photographs of the exit gate of the controversial tunnel in Old Jerusalem

Photograph: AFP

Israeli hard line fuels fires of hatred

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

"If Arafat returns from Washington with nothing, you won't see an immediate outbreak of fighting," said Jonathan Kuttab, a Palestinian political activist. "But within a few months, you will see 100 or 1,000 dead."

Nobody on the West Bank, Israeli or Palestinian, doubts that war is very close. At a meeting on the new military situation attended by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, just before he left for Washington, his chief of staff, senior generals and intelligence officers it was decided to use more firepower. Any Palestinian, according to an officer who took part in the discussion, who "draws near IDF [Israeli Army] posts or near soldiers, will be killed - they will shoot him without any hesitation".

The government thinks that its military superiority in the West Bank and Gaza, established by victory in the 1967 war, has been challenged by the loss of 15 soldiers and border police killed last week, even though there were four times as many deaths among the Palestinians.

In future, if demonstrators move towards the fence around an Israeli position, the local commander will be able to use tanks and armoured vehicles against them.

"This time, if there is an eruption,"

the [occupied] territories, we will cream them," another officer at the meeting was quoted as saying by the *Haaretz* newspaper. The army feels humiliated by the losses suffered last Thursday and Friday and by the fate of a unit effectively taken prisoner at Joseph's Tomb in

the prevention of travel within the West Bank is a form of collective punishment for all Palestinians that will certainly lead to more bloodshed

Nablus. But the new rules of engagement ensure that casualties in any future outbreak will be higher than the 1,600 Palestinians injured last week.

Massive use of Israeli firepower - two Merkava tanks were drawn up at the entrance to Bethlehem yesterday - would lead to the 40,000 Palestinian police being drawn into the fighting. A Palestinian source said yesterday: "Even the Israelis are only saying that 200 police fired at them last week. At Ramallah, where intense fighting took place, the figure was only about 30. Imagine if they had all joined in."

Explaining the severity of many of the injuries, Dr Mustafa Barghouti, of the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, said: "The high-velocity bullets used by Israel rupture the body in the same way as dum-dum bullets."

The West Bank was calm yesterday but almost all travel and economic life has come to a stop because the Israeli army has put up checkpoints preventing Palestinians moving between the towns and villages. About 100,000 people in the Hebron area have been confined to their homes by a five-day curfew.

Where there are no checkpoints, roads in Palestinian areas have been closed with concrete blocks. Israeli journalists yesterday successfully fought off an attempt by the army to stop them entering Palestinian autonomous enclaves. Ostensibly this was for

their own safety, but the effect, possibly intentional, was to make it difficult for US television which relies on Israeli crews for pictures of Palestinian areas during the Washington summit.

The Oslo Accords created a jigsaw of conflicting Palestinian and Israeli authority on the ground. This rickety system of dual power could only be maintained by goodwill and co-operation - qualities which are both in short supply in Mr Netanyahu's government.

Several Jewish religious sites, notably Joseph's Well and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem

have become deeply resented symbols of Israeli rule. Rachel's Tomb, on the Jerusalem-Hebron road, once a small shrine with a sarcophagus, now looks like a fortified military outpost, with massive walls of reinforced concrete rising around it.

All local shops are shut, but even if they were open they would have no customers because nobody is being allowed in or out of Bethlehem.

Given that the Palestinian police have stopped all demonstrations, the prevention of travel within the West Bank by Israel is a form of collective punishment for all Palestinians. Justified by Israel as a response to violence, the closure is self-fulfilling in that the resentment it creates will certainly lead to more bloodshed.

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Multi-Media: Information and TV revolutions open new possibilities in Lebanon, Japan and US

Satellite samurai set for TV battle

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

If exclamation marks and wacky spellings were a guarantee of success, then PerfectTV, Japan's first digital satellite television service, would have no cause for worry.

Apart from conventionally named news and film stations, the 57 channels inaugurated at the service's commercial launch yesterday included PerfectTV, Access, Star-KaraOK! and Fighting TV Samurai. Subscribers can supplement BBC World Service



Rupert Murdoch: Beaming into the Japanese TV market

TV, and news in Korean and Chinese, with DigiCube ("Youth trendy information"), Oki Doki ("International entertainment"), and a morning channel, bafflingly called V600r DoN'tuX10.

But the air of frantic light-heartedness suggested by PerfectTV's programming is misleading, for the new service, which is backed by some of Japan's biggest companies, including Toyota and Mitsubishi, will soon have a battle on its hands.

Within the next year, its monopoly will be broken by bigger and more ambitious competitors, such as DirecTV which is backed by Matsushita

and Hughes Electronics, the US giant. Also in the ring is a man who until this year was hardly known in Japan - Rupert Murdoch.

"We have to gain as many viewers as possible before DirecTV and Mr Murdoch start to take a lead. I think that's the only choice for us," said Hiroto Kasahara, the president of PerfectTV at the launch of the service this week.

DirecTV will provide about 100 channels from next year. Mr Murdoch's JSkyB, a joint undertaking with the Japanese software mogul, Masayoshi Son, will offer about 150 channels. Though digital satellite television is already available in several regions, including Europe and North and South America, the Japanese market could be set for the most explosive growth of all.

The competition between the new services will be a novelty in Japan, which has a population of 125 million but, like Britain, a relatively small number of terrestrial stations, alongside analogue satellite and cable. By the time all three of the new services are available next year, the number of choices will have skyrocketed.

Subscribers to PerfectTV pay about 50,000 yen (£300) for the necessary satellite dish and receiver set, and a monthly subscription of ¥1,900 upwards. The company claims to have sold 80,000 receivers, and aims to reach 300,000 people by the end of the year.

But the technology which has brought about the boom will soon form the focus of the competition. Unlike a conventional analogue signal, digital satellite broadcasts "compress" images and data, allowing a far greater number of channels, and a lower cost.

At the moment, subscribers require a separate dish and receiver for each service. Negotiations are currently under way to adopt a single dish - and, if PerfectTV and Mr Murdoch tie up the agreement which they are rumoured to be reaching, the outlook for their competitor will be far from perfect.



Vanishing point: Satellite technology is set to take over television screens around the world, giving viewers more choice

Washington to end export ban on cipher code

DAVID USBORNE
New York

The White House appeared set yesterday to announce proposals to lift a ban on the export of advanced software designed to scramble sensitive data transmitted between Internet users.

The announcement would end four years of often fractious debate between the Clinton administration, which has been anxious to curb the sale abroad of data-scrambling or encryption software, and the US computer industry, which has complained that the controls have lost it important markets.

As the Internet grows in importance, companies are increasingly using it to transmit information that they would also like to keep secret. The encryption software allows users to translate messages into code that will remain impenetrable to anyone except those to whom they are addressed.

The dilemma for the US government, however, is that such technology could also hand a formidable weapon to terrorists and international crime rings. With encryption, they could transmit information around the world without fear of discovery.

The deal expected to be offered in an executive order from President Bill Clinton would give the green light to US companies to export advanced encryption products. However,

the companies would be obliged to ensure that the coding "keys" required for unscrambling data must be deposited with a third party where they could be available to police.

The keys, which would be surrendered only on production of a court order, could be of up to 56 computer "bits". Currently, US companies are only allowed to export much cruder encryption products for which the keys need be only up to 40 bits long. An experienced hacker with state-of-the-art equipment can crack 40-bit encryption in 12 minutes.

The White House considers the proposal a reasonable compromise between the needs of law enforcement and the concerns both of the computer industry itself and of right-to-privacy advocates. Several large computer companies, including IBM, are believed to support the plan.

"I think there are some companies who are not going to vomit all over this and there are some who will," an industry source said. "Some companies oppose any kind of key recovery system as a condition for exporting products."

A White House source told the *New York Times*: "It is going to take a while to persuade people that their data is safe under this system and that it protects privacy, or at least that we can use the system to trace terrorists or drug dealers."

How to turn the key to privacy

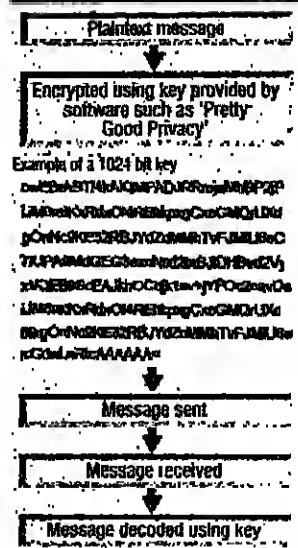
ELIZABETH WINE

Encryption sounds complicated, but is merely a dressed-up version of the secret codes that cloak-and-dagger types have used since Roman times. Plaintext, or ordinary language, is put into ciphertext, which is any kind of combination of letters and numbers.

Ciphertext can be encoded and decoded with two kinds of "keys": synchronous and asynchronous. With synchronous codes, the same key used to put encode is used to decode. A key is a long string of numbers and it is used by a mathematical algorithm to unlock the code.

Asynchronous codes use public and private keys. The same keys can't be used to lock and unlock a message. Every one using a particular computer system has their own public and private keys. Public keys could be known by many people. Private keys are known only by the user.

HOW ENCRYPTION WORKS



Lebanon pulls plug on rampant 'coat-hanger' piracy

JAN MILLICHIP

"When the war in Lebanon ended, the war between the TV stations began," said Ali Jaber, managing director and chief executive officer of the Sunni Muslim television station Future TV.

Since the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) was launched in 1985 as a mouthpiece for the Christian Phalangist movement, breaking the 27-year monopoly of the state channel, Tele Liban, Lebanon has become the launch pad for anyone with a coat-hanger and a satellite dish to set up their own television station.

All that is now coming to an end - in theory. On 16 September, the Lebanese government agency approved four national broadcast licences, ending 10 years of channel explosion and rampant piracy which made Lebanon the Wild West of the broadcasting world. The following

day, the Prime Minister, Rafiq al-Hariri, endorsed the decision and banned more than 100 renegade radio stations and somewhere between 38 and 57 pirate TV stations, which serve the country's 3.4 million population. They have until November to close down.

Although most of the larger stations have developed into sophisticated and commercial businesses, most started from partisan roots. The latest decision gives each of the major religious and political factions a piece of the audio-visual pie. Three of them have been operating illegally for up to 10 years: Future TV, a station part-owned by Mr Hariri; LBC, Lebanon's leading commercial broadcaster; and MTV, an Orthodox Christian station owned by the estranged brother of the deputy prime minister, Michel al-Murr. The only start-up station to have its application accepted is NBN, set up by the

Shia leader, Nabih Berri. But the story does not end here. The decision to slash hack the media has caused a storm of protest among opposition leaders who accused Mr Hariri of curbing press freedom. Most vocal among these is the Hizbollah-backed station Manar TV, which, against expectations, did not receive a licence.

Manar TV is the fifth-largest station in Lebanon in terms of revenue. Mohammed, a producer, says the station is no longer owned by Hizbollah; it is now sponsored by the party. "The station is the voice of the Islamic resistance," he said. "Manar TV talks about the poor people and their problems, and because it represents a great party, they can tell the truth... The way to free our country is to tell the Islamic resistance to free it from the Israeli army."

Rather than upset the delicate political balance, Mr Hariri granted Manar special dispensation to continue broadcasting without a licence "as long as Israel occupies Lebanese lands". It was a smart fudge. But this mandate was revoked on 20 September when the cabinet responded



Rafiq al-Hariri: Banned renegade radio and pirate TV stations

to opposition protests, and reconsidered licence applications. As a result the government imposed a news blackout on Manar, until the Council of Ministers meets today.

Given their track record, it is unlikely many of Lebanon's other renegade stations will go quietly. Last year delegates from the Motion Pictures Association of America (MPAA) travelled to Lebanon to shut down a station called Kilikia, after its owner was discovered buying the latest Hollywood movies from the local video store and rebroadcasting them. As soon as the MPAA left, he started again, claiming to be resisting American imperialism.

This rally of U-turns and contradictions is typical of the past two years, during which Mr Hariri has attempted to push through a media Bill to put an end to piracy, limit political interference and legislate for satellite expansion. Last year he sold his majority stake in Future TV, and passed a law in May restricting any individual from owning more than 10 per cent of a station. "The Prime Minister has a real obsession with trying to make the ownership of Future TV a model," said Ali Jaber, of Future.

The big three stations have spent the past year shaping up for the new law. "Everyone has had a year to prepare for the changes," said Pierre El Daher, the president of LBC, which now has a 50 per cent market share, and has invested \$17m (£11m) in new equipment this year.

To compensate for the loss of its monopoly, the state broadcaster Tele Liban received a 16-year tax holiday. It has spent \$9m on equipment, and has pumped much of its programme budget into its soap opera, *The Tempest Always Rises Twice*. International expansion through satellite is the next step. During the

Israeli invasion in April this year, the largest stations (LBC, Future TV, Tele Liban, MTV, New TV) put aside their commercial and political differences in order to produce joint satellite news broadcasts. LBC has since circumvented the satellite law, which has been delayed in parliament, by uplinking its new satellite channel, LBC SAT, from Rome. Meanwhile, Future TV unofficially went on air this summer, using part of a satellite leased to Lebanon's Ministry of Information.

Fouad Naim, of Tele Liban, secretly believes that vested interests will ensure that Lebanon's media Bill is never fully ratified. Not that this will prevent any of the stations expanding their businesses. Entrepreneurial rigour is the signature of Lebanese TV. Today's judgment on the future of the Hizbollah-backed Manar may muffle the voice of Islamic resistance. But not for long.

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A triumph of decent middle-class radicalism

Tony Blair's last big speech to his party before the general election was more like two. It was the nearest he has come to Middle England and innate conservatism. But it was also the most Labourite speech he has made since becoming leader. This may make it sound like a terrible muddle. But it was a muddle, it was a very clever muddle indeed.

Let us look first at his conservatism. Last year, Blair sounded positively Kennedy-esque about the future, hailing Britain as "the young country". This year, there was instead a strongly nostalgic passage about the post-war, Fifties country of his youth, where families were stronger, crime was lower, and "there was a national ethos and spirit that had won the war and stayed with us in peace".

He had a moving tale of his father's stroke and the way friends rallied round, and his mother's battle through. For anyone who has been following politics at all, these passages must be reminiscent of John Major's evocation of a similarly tranquil childhood Britain – not quite the warm beer and old maids cycling to church, but not far off it – and of the struggling Brixton family whose sardines formed the Prime Minister.

The similarities only begin there. Blair talked admirably of striving small businesses and successful engineering companies in ways that one would have once characterised as the classic

rhetoric of Tory conferences. He was stern about excessive red tape and bureaucracy. He talked of "zero tolerance" of failure in schools and produced a plan for summer (school) work camps for children failing to read which are several stages tougher than anything proposed by the Conservatives – there will be a few families worrying about whether or not to book the annual holiday if Labour wins.

His caution on the European single currency echoes Major almost word for word. His strong assertion of the importance of the single market to British prosperity is similarly, a theme from Major speeches. His savaging of drug-takers and hooligans was fiercer than the Prime Minister's normal language on the subject. His promise of a new service contract for consumers of state services sounded strangely like Major's Citizen's Charter. Oh yes, and Blair's most evocative soundbite, "the decent society", used the word most often associated with the Prime Minister. If the Tories can steal "moral government" from Labour, it seems, then Labour can take "decency" from Major.

That summing-up suggests an aggressively conservative speech, squarely aimed at middle-class England. It is no distortion. But there was another half of the speech which seemed to tilt the other way. In it, Blair defended union rights as human rights, derided the internal market in the National Health

Service, staunchly defended the minimum wage and comprehensive education, and generally went out of his way to sound more sympathetic to gut Labour instincts than he has before.

The Labour Party is a sentimental party, and Blair has not been a generally sentimental or highly emotional speaker. But he was both yesterday, harking back to Jack Jones's service in the International Brigades and praising the loyalty of those party members who had stuck by Labour throughout the grim years. The audience loved it. Something for everyone, then? Yes, but there is a political logic at work

which may very well win Blair the election and keep him in power for many years. Those aspects of Majorism which Blair and his team are highlighting – decency, patriotism, conservative instincts about law and order, education and family life – are the most popular, least threatening parts of old Torydom. But they are also being overshadowed in the Conservative Party by its civil war and the rise of a harder, more aggressive new right, welfare-slashing agenda. It is as if, in some respects, Blair is tacitly acknowledging Major's decency because Major has already lost his party to wilder men – and is no longer

really what the Tories are proposing for the early 2000s. New Major, no Tories? Is the idea that, as the Conservative moderates retreat, new Labour moves smoothly into their old reflexes, limousines and government offices?

No, not quite. If that were the plan, then we could stop discussing politics for the foreseeable future. But there remains a strong centre of radical politics proposed by New Labour and the Liberal Democrats which would change the country. Blair stuck by his political reform programme (though it is too timid), stuck by the minimum wage, and he stuck by clear promises on youth and long-term unemployment. There was a genuine centre-left programme hidden in there, too.

But will it occur? Will Blair's radical streak and his energetic enthusiasm for change, triumph over his equally striking conservatism and mild patriotic nostalgia? Take a very small but interesting example – Blair's pledge that, regarding the National Lottery, "I want the people's money to go on the people's priorities". If he's serious about it, then that is very bad news for say, the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Yet, as we reported last week in our series on the New Establishment, its governors are one of the most powerful cabals in the nation. Will Blair trample them or will he be seduced?

We cannot know. He has not had the chance to show us. He has taken on and

defeated old Labourism, but he hasn't yet taken on a strong, contemporary vested interest. So we are left to stick a finger in the wind and guess. Perhaps not for long: if his manifesto is as it was presented yesterday – radicalism rooted in the instincts of the middle-class majority – then it is, we suspect, a winning one. And Tony Blair? After years of cynicism about politics, it is impossible to quite believe his promises. But to brush them aside with a sneer would be worse than impossible; it would be... well, indecent.

Spies show their intelligence

The American government says it will allow exports of computer software for encoding data – rendering it unreadable by third parties – provided companies deposit "keys" giving it access to the encryption methods in an emergency. It sounds like a restraint of trade, but it is one that history sanctions. Yesterday, the Public Record Office opened files on the traffic to and from Moscow from Soviet agents deep inside Western atomic weapons programmes during the Second World War and after. They remind us how vital was "signal" – intelligence derived from communications. Are things so different in our post-Cold War circumstances? No.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rise in crime is not just in the mind

Sir: I am surprised to see Polly Toynbee (article, 25 September) repeat the old argument that the increase in crime is largely a myth.

It is inadmissible to suggest that because the homicide rate in 1857 is similar to that of today that there has been no change in the level of violence. This misses out the great trough in between. Given great advances in resuscitation techniques it should decline even given a constant rate of violent behaviour.

The flattening of the homicide statistics since the mid-Seventies that she reports mystifies me. In the last five years of the Seventies the rate was 9.6 per million; in the last five years recently it has been 11.8.

Polly Toynbee repeats the familiar argument that only a small proportion of crime is violent and the vast majority is against property; hence fear of crime is disproportionate, particularly among women and the elderly.

Widespread crimes such as domestic violence and school bullying are not picked up in the statistics. Our own research suggests that crimes of violence are as frequent as property crimes and women have only a little less chance of suffering violence than men.

To suggest, as Polly Toynbee does, that women are irrational in their fears is ironic: of course, after taking elaborate precautions they suffer less crime than men; if they acted like men they would suffer more.

Professor JOCK YOUNG
Head of Centre for Criminology
Middlesex University

Sir: How passionately I agree with Polly Toynbee that most women (particularly elderly ones) have a grossly exaggerated idea of how dangerous it is to walk the streets of London after dark.

At 82 years old, I walk exactly where I like at any hour of the night. I travel home without a qualm on the late-night tubes. I have never suffered the smallest injury.

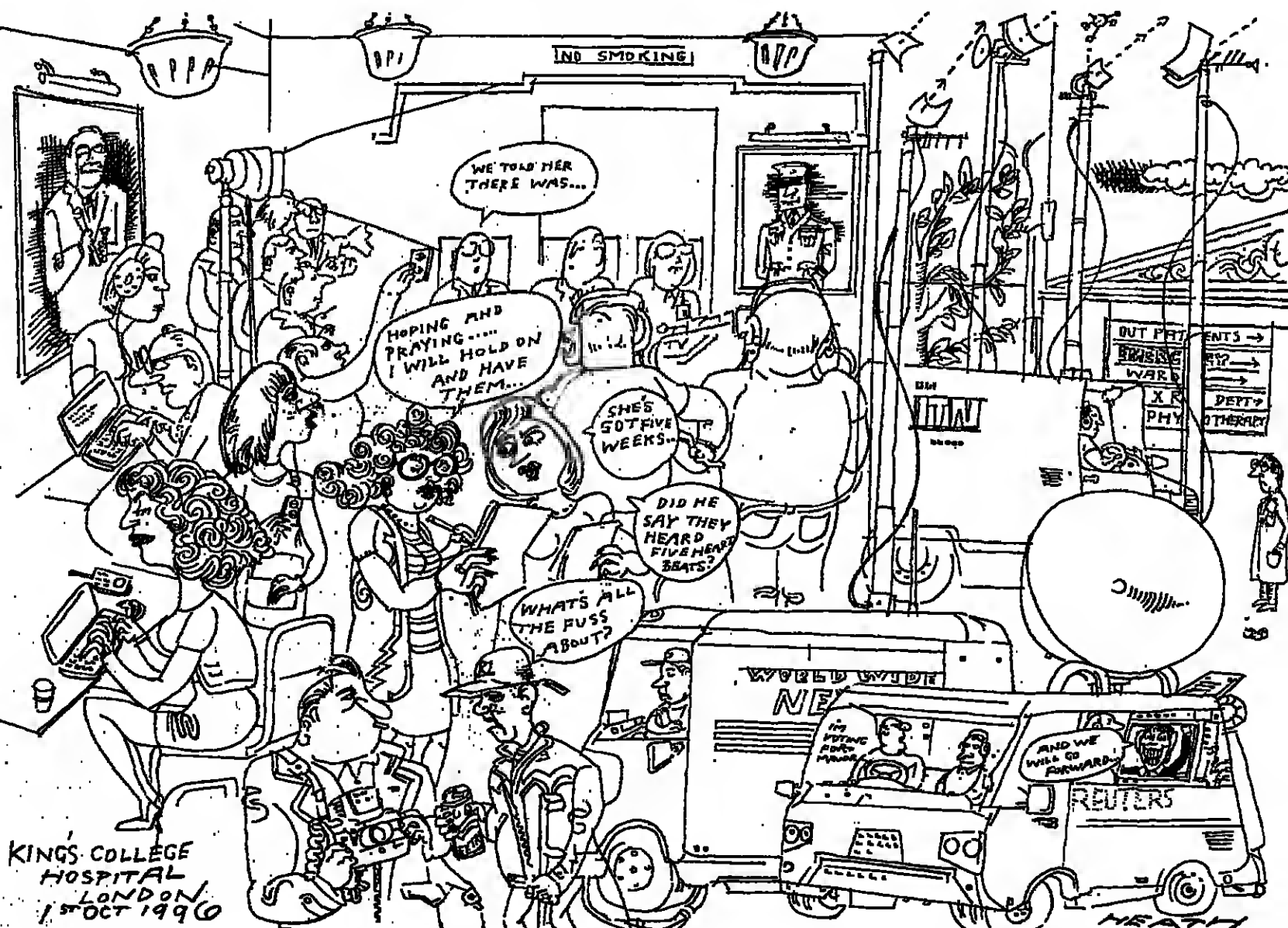
However, I would like to offer your more timorous readers a small piece of advice. If you find yourself in a lonely street late at night, and you feel yourself threatened by a gang of young men, don't run away. Walk briskly towards them, with a big smile on your face, and ask them the way to somewhere. It works like a dream. Very often, the whole lot will escort you to your tube station, chatting all the way.

CELIA FREMLIN
London NW3

Sir: Both recently released sets of crime statistics show an increase in recorded crime. The Director General of the prison service warns that his service is reaching crisis point as the prison population rises. Additional prisons cost millions of pounds to build, and take years to become operational.

The use of weekend prisons has always been rejected by this government. As well as depriving the individual of liberty at weekends, it would allow a person to remain in employment and in their family, thereby fulfilling the Government's stated aim of promoting family values.

JOHN BUDD
Great Yeldham, Essex



Michael Heath's Britain: Waiting for news of Mandy Allwood

Path to peace in the Middle East

Sir: Many Jews are appalled at the way the Israeli-Palestinian crisis is endangering the whole peace process which was developing between Israel and many sections of the Arab world.

Only three months ago Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, and his government were working with wide international support to advance the peace process. Now, after three months of a Likud-led government, this progress is rapidly becoming a memory of what could have been. We are witnessing a breakdown of all that was so painstakingly achieved under the Madrid and Oslo agreements.

There is too much at stake for those of us abroad – as well as Israelis and Palestinians – seeking Jewish-Arab reconciliation to remain silent. The Israel government and Palestinian Authority must make whatever mutual concessions are needed, so that bloodshed can be halted and political relationships be rebuilt.

Suggested immediate action:

1. Close Jerusalem's Hashmonean tunnel until there is mutual Jewish-Muslim agreement.
2. Palestinian police to stop firing on Israeli troops.
3. Israeli troops to withdraw from Palestinian autonomous enclaves.
4. Re-establish joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols, with joint boundary checkpoints.
5. Agreement to redeploy troops in Hebron to be implemented promptly.
6. Agreement on further troop redeployment in the "West Bank" to be implemented.

7. Suspend plans for further Jewish settlements in the "West Bank"

8. A firm start date for negotiations on a permanent Israeli-Palestinian settlement, including Jerusalem and Palestinian self-government. Anxious Diaspora Jews, like millions of Israelis and Palestinians, urge such an agenda now.

REGINALD FREESON
London NW6

Sir: Objections to Israeli attempts to reinforce sovereignty over Jerusalem by archaeological excavations. This led to American criticism that the organisation was becoming too "politicised", one of the reasons for US (and British) withdrawal.

Professor CHARLES HUGHES
Felixstowe, Suffolk

Geldof heading for second halo

Sir: All Boh Geldof has to do to bring "the rights of wronged fathers to public attention" ("Geldof becomes fathers' champion", 30 September) is to keep on telling the world how much he loves his children, regardless of how much time he has managed to spend with them. A second halo, the one so commonly awarded to Good Fathers, will only be conferred upon Saint Boh.

Burning of paper helps planet too

Sir: In his article promoting environmental realism ("Greenpeace, please grow up", 26 September), Richard D North was himself guilty of peddling at least one mischievous piece of misinformation.

The statement "when it [the IED report] claims that recycling paper often will not be the best environmental option, while municipal incineration with energy recovery may well be" implies that the latter practice is not itself a valuable form of recycling.

Municipal incineration is environmentally beneficial in reducing fossil fuel demand as well as land-fill space, and still requires paper to be collected wherever possible. The message from the media should be that turning paper into more paper is only one form of recycling one substance, and that

Charity begins with junk mail

Sir: May I make a plea for some patience with charity appeals (Letters, 27 and 30 September)? We all complain about "junk mail", but the problem is that junk mail works!

Let me assure you that charities would not "waste" their valuable resources unless these mail shots were effective. They bring in money from the general public – including from "repeat asks".

It would be nice to think that all charities had the sophisticated computer systems and high staffing levels required to ensure that when someone asks for further mailings than usual, that is precisely what they get. But they haven't.

Can we reach a compromise? When you get three appeals a year from a charity to whom you wish to donate annually – donate annually. Please, though, take a little time to learn more about the work that you are so generously supporting. For with each appeal comes information. Enjoy it! You never know... the more you learn of the problems alleviated by these charities, the more you may be tempted to give.

FIONA BANATVALA
Fundraising Manager
Prison Reform Trust
London EC1

Kidney patients missing out

Sir: It is not only patients with haemophilia who are denied recombinant medication because of its expense ("Is it too much to ask that children with haemophilia get the best and safest treatment?", 23 September).

A significant proportion of patients with chronic renal failure also suffer with a severe anaemia that can be treated with recombinant human erythropoietin. This drug has the potential to greatly improve the health and quality of life of a lot of patients with renal failure, but it is also expensive, and its use is therefore being restricted in some areas.

As with recombinant Factor VIII, this is not experimental medicine we are addressing here, but safe, tried and tested medication that we would all want our patients or loved ones to have. Action is needed.

Dr PADDY GIBSON
Edinburgh

Adolf and I

Sir: Jo Brand, commenting on names (28 September), refers to the suffering one goes through at school if landed with a ridiculous name.

In my young days I had no problem with mine. The suffering has only come since you printed (Letters, 9 September) the fact that Eber was a pseudonym used by Adolf Hitler to hide a Swiss bank account.

EBER A KINGTON
London SW20

It's not what you know...

Sir: It was heartwarming to read your account of the many successful state schools in our leafier regions ("If the state school is fine, why pay?", 26 September). What also needs to be stressed is the similarly outstanding record of many inner-city comprehensives in less fashionable locations.

My partner is the product of one such school. His excellent exam results enabled him to rise above his parents' expectations. Several years ago he founded his own practice and both he and his partners are innovative and hard-working. Yet so often prestigious accounts are "won" by companies with "old school" connections.

The real reason why so many parents opt for private education from the age of two-and-a-half has less to do with education than the social advantages. Connections are made and bonds are forged that can ease a person's passage through an increasingly competitive world.

My partner is not bitter, though certainly disillusioned. We both appreciate that there are excellent private schools and truly awful state schools in England, but while the "value-added" element of our class system continues to be ignored, equality of opportunity and genuine parental choice remain a farce.

STELLA NORMAN
London SW12

Sir: I read of the dispute about the timescale for amending the A-level maths core content with disbeliever ("Maths experts reveal divisions over curriculum", 27 September).

Firstly, having participated in many syllabus revisions during 30 years' teaching, I have never known one which did not need a period of reflection to reveal missed interrelations. Have no such lessons been learnt from the national curriculum?

Secondly, the new course has only just had its first students through to A-level – but some decisions on changes are going to be made on the basis of poor performance by university students who followed the old syllabuses and pre-national curriculum. Where is the wisdom in that?

We regularly clocked up 70 hours per week as we developed the new school course, and are just feeling that we have got the measure of the new exam's demand. The thought of further changes is daunting and could well lead to a further depletion in the number of experienced maths teachers in schools.

MARGARET E. POSTON
London N12
The writer is head of maths at a north London grammar school.

No lady

Sir: Marie Paterson (Letters, 1 October) has got it wrong. I will know I have lost my allure when my doctor stops calling me "old girl" and starts calling me "young lady".

MAVIS KLEIN
London NW3

Overcooked

Sir: Gordon Brown promises us that there will be "no cooked books" (report, 1 October). What will he do with the books he inherits, which he is likely to find have been burned to a crisp?

JOHN WHITE
Baldock
Hertfordshire

interview

The truth about the Queen (but not her dogs)

Ben Pimlott, distinguished historian, tells Paul Vallely about his new biography of a monarch who has anchored Britain through stormy times. Serialised from tomorrow in *The Independent*, it describes a woman who may yet save the Windsors from the threat of republicanism

Forty per cent of people in this country dream about the Queen coming to tea," says Ben Pimlott. "My mission was to discover why."

Wasn't this an odd undertaking for a man who designates himself a left-wing historian? Not at all, he insists. "Everyone is interested in the Queen. We all have a relationship with her - whether hostile, respectful or affectionate. When you have a subject that preoccupies the British public - to say nothing of the public in America and Japan - it's a historical phenomenon which is worthy of study regardless of whether monarchy is fashionable or decidedly out of fashion."

The story of the present monarch reflects key aspects of British culture through the late 20th century. Pimlott's impressive book is therefore more than a biography of an individual; it is an essay on an epoch. "People think that unless you have a fawning admiration for your subject you can't write a biography," he adds defensively, "but it's possible to treat it clinically and objectively, like a surgeon with a patient."

He may rest assured. There is not much chance that the Queen will send him a note like the one Pimlott records the Duke of Edinburgh sending to the journalist Basil Boothroyd, who had written a gushing biography of the consort. "Proverbs 28:23," it said, "He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favour than he who flatters with his tongue."

"If she deigns to read it - and

I don't know if she will - I'd be disappointed if some of her feathers weren't a bit ruffled," says Pimlott, "but I'd also hope that she'd recognise it as a serious attempt to get to grips with her life and times."

There is no doubting the seriousness of the enterprise. The preface acknowledges the help of many courtly figures, including Princess Margaret, plus an array of courtiers and friends of the sovereign.

Did he talk to the Queen herself? "I don't want to say," he says coyly, and then, by way of correction, adds: "I'm not saying I did. But I spoke to a number of people who aren't listed in the preface and I don't want to narrow the field in terms of unnamed sources." Particularly so since there are countless intimate details about the regal character dotted through the 600-page book.

The harvest reveals the scale of Pimlott's effort. He began work in 1993, soon after finishing his mammoth biography of Harold Wilson, which revived the tarnished reputation of the former Labour prime minister. That was his second biography (his first, of the post-war Labour politician Hugh Dalton, won the Whitbread prize).

"I started by reading all the secondary stuff. I had to be discriminating. There are more than 500 books on the royal; your brain would turn to porridge if you did more than open some of them - *Our Princesses* and *The Dogs*, for example."

There was also a mountain of newspaper cuttings - "enough probably to fill Buckingham Palace". There is probably no

living individual about whom more has been written.

"Most of what you get in newspapers has a kernel of truth - but working out what is the true bit is the hard bit. The Palace doesn't comment and has its own way of being economical with the truth." The critical difference with his book, he insists, is what he left out: "I've tried to stick closely to hard evidence."

His 85 interviews with those close to the Queen have ensured there is no shortage of that. Buckingham Palace co-operated. "They were very helpful - much more so than I had reason to suppose they would be." He was given access to the royal archives at Windsor Castle, and permission to access the royal files at the BBC, which are not generally open to scholars. "The Palace even sent letters to people I wanted to interview telling them: 'We've no objection to your talking to this chap.'"

The result is a host of telling details about the little princess who was only allowed to play with one toy at a time and permitted to visit only one panto a year: whom the Archbishop of Canterbury found leading the King on all fours by the beard, and yet who at bedtime was required to walk backwards

out of the same grandfather's presence with the words: "I trust your Majesty will sleep well." There was the 11-year-old's charming schoolgirl composition (though she never in fact went to school) dedicated "To Mummy and Papa, From Lilibet, By Herself", setting out her impressions of her father's coronation.

There was the young woman who, soon after meeting a young Greek prince named Philip, began endlessly to play on the gramophone the record of "People Will Say We're in Love" from *Oklahoma*.

There was the chatterbox who would not let the portraitist Annigoni paint in silence. There was the irreverent giggler who recalled how hard it was to keep a straight face at the dress rehearsal for the Arthurian pantomime of her son's investiture because the crown was too big "and extinguished him like a candle-snuffer".

There was the middle-aged woman who woke to find an intruder, Michael Fagan, sitting on her bed pouring out his troubles to her and talking "the usual sort of bludge that people talk to me on walkabout". There were the countless letters from the dress designer Hardy Amies's trunk, many of them

tart complaints about the size of the bills.

"It has been like digging up a Hitler tomb and piecing together the fragments of poetry found there," says Pimlott. The overall impression which emerges, he tells him, is of an intelligent, straightforward, down-to-earth woman with a surprising sense of humour and a considerable gift for mimicry. "Good," he says. "I'm pleased."

The changes the book recounts are an index of how rapidly our times have changed. The social world in which Princess Elizabeth met her husband-to-be is unrecognisable. "Philip was like a character out of a wartime Evelyn Waugh novel," Pimlott says. "He had ability, intelligence, charm and chutzpah, was the nephew of the reigning monarch in Greece, was connected to all the royal families of Europe, but he was thought unsuitable." It was not just that he had absolutely no money and was seen as a genial sponger. He was seen as a German - his dynastic name was Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg - and was thought uneducated and unpolished. He was not an old Etonian in a group

where almost everybody else was. Gordonstoun was seen as a "socialist" school.

The rate of political change is evident from Pimlott's revelations of the contrasting machinations to which the Queen was privy at the time of the resignations of various prime ministers - Churchill, Eden and Macmillan - and the manoeuvres surrounding the coming to power of the minority Labour government in 1974.

"Britain is a harsher society now than it was 30 years ago, but the old political caste system - with its sense that some people are genetically superior - which was still operating as recently as Macmillan's time, is no longer in place," Pimlott says.

In public life, there has been a complete revolution. "Thirty years ago, it was not permissible to impersonate any monarch since Victoria on the stage, and in newspapers it was almost impossible not to write anything not admiring." Now the Royal Family is routinely mocked in the name of entertainment and "no self-respecting journalist could turn in a story about royalty that did not have a sting in its tail."

In all that shifting sand, Pimlott's thesis is that the Queen has been a rock of stability: she has

had a decisive influence in maintaining the unity of the Commonwealth in the face of hostility to the organisation from Margaret Thatcher when she was prime minister; and she has played "an important constitutional role in moderating the excesses of Thatcherism", says Pimlott. Of which more tomorrow, when the serialisation of Pimlott's book begins in *The Independent*. "It is hard to quantify, but if you get an overweening PM it's useful to have an institution that can in the subliminal ways indicate reservation."

"It is the great irony of the Queen's reign. Nobody could conceivably regard her as a radical and yet the most obvious reservations she expressed were against the loony right rather than the loony left, which constitutionalists had always supposed was the threat against which the monarchy was a residual check and balance in our elective dictatorship."

He is talking not just about the Thatcher administration. The evidence is that the Queen attempted to exercise moderating influences over British policy on Suez and the nation's repeated tendency slavishly to endorse US foreign policy.

His big criticism of the Queen is that when the prime ministership was passed from Harold Macmillan to Alec Douglas-Home "she allowed herself to be totally manipulated. She became so much of a pawn that the Tories had to change their system for choosing a leader. If that system hadn't been in place, it may be that Margaret Thatcher would never have succeeded."

Change one fact and the whole kaleidoscope of history would collapse. Pimlott, professor of contemporary history at Birkbeck College in the University of London, knows that, and he refrains from further speculation. "The trendy view is that the monarchy is irrelevant. I don't agree. The genetic lottery will produce a bad monarch from time to time, but that isn't the point."

The real point is the subtle role that the monarchy plays as part of the checks and balances of the British constitution. This aspect of the monarchy was evident in the Thatcher era, and could again play a significant role in the event of a hung parliament. Such political realities, he believes, will obviate the move to republicanism which is now canvassed with such facility among the old left and the new right.

"The monarchy can't go against the democratic system, but they have the advantage that they're not part of it; they don't have to court popularity like politicians do, so they don't act with the same interests."

"It's enormously healthy that there should be a debate about the monarchy. I don't think that there is the crisis which some people make out, but in our understanding of ourselves as a nation we have to understand the institution. I hope the book helps with that."

The Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth II by Ben Pimlott is published by HarperCollins on 14 October, price £20.

Tomorrow: The Queen and her prime ministers.



PHOTOGRAPH: TOM PLESTON

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THE INDEPENDENT

I wanted answers; they wanted the cash



Miles Kingston

Iwould like to come clean and admit it. I have been paying money to politicians in order to get them to say certain things. I have been handing over money to politicians to persuade them to stand up in the House and make certain statements. But not to ask questions. To utter answers. To utter certain answers which all of us want to hear uttered in the House of Commons. And I am prepared to

name the guilty men and women here, now and today!

I have, for instance, offered sums of money to Mr Major (and before him to Mrs Thatcher) for them to get up at Prime Minister's Question Time and say: "I propose to rename this session Prime Minister's Answer Time, for the very simple reason that this time, as every time, I intend to pay no attention to the questions asked, but only to the answers which I have brought along to deliver to the questions, whatever those questions may be."

I have offered money to the Leader of the Opposition to get up at any time and say: "For far too long have I opposed every policy of the Government simply on the grounds that I have been made Leader of the Opposition. Sometimes the Government has good ideas. At any rate, sometimes the Government does exactly what we would do if we were in power. On all these occasions in the past I have heckled and booed this action, simply to express

automatic opposition. I now recognise that it is as bad to oppose everything that the Government does as to support it all, and that the automatic division of politicians into goodies and baddies is a poor way to run a country, not to say

infantile. Therefore, on this particular occasion I would like to say that the Government has taken the right action, and I would have done the same thing."

I have also offered money to the leadership of the Liberal Democrats to get up in the House and say: "I think it is high time that the Liberal Democrats gave up pretending that we are here to prepare for government. The Lib Dems are here merely to provide a diversionary tactic. Having established which, I'd now like to sing a song for you all, a little song entitled, 'She was only an MP's daughter, but she knew how to hang on to her seat.'"

No, I am not ashamed to admit that I have offered money to all these people to make certain answers in the House.

What is shameful is that none of them has actually done anything about it.

For instance, I have had no response from my generous offer to Michael Howard for him to stand up and say:

"By increasing the number of people in prison and reducing the funds available for the Prison Service, I have created all the conditions for an enormous explosion in Britain's jails and it will be interesting to see how catastrophically wrong I will be proved in uttering my knee-jerk slogan 'Prison works!' Rest assured that however wrong I am proved, I will admit nothing and manage to blame it all on someone else as usual."

I have had no response from Mr Michael Heseltine in answer to my offer of a blank cheque in return for his simple statement:

"I promise never again to appear on Radio 4's *Today* programme unless I have something new to say."

Nor indeed have I had an answer to the same offer made to Douglas Hurd,

Malcolm Rifkind, Harriet Harman, and many others.

Nor have I had an answer from William Waldegrave in response to the speech I have offered him money to make:

"I now recognise that the Scott report did make me out to be a wide-eyed innocent on the political stage, and that if I had been less of one I might have noticed before now. And, yes, I have from time to time been duplicitous."

Nor do I seem to have had any luck with my offer to Neil Hamilton, to whom I have sent a bulky and generously furnished brown envelope containing (among other things) a small statement I wanted him to make to the effect that *The Guardian* was a good and reliable newspaper.

In fact, as I have had such little success with all these politicians, I now intend to stop influencing politics for the good of the country.

I just wish that more than a few of the people I attempted to influence, unsuccessfully, had bothered to send the money back.

Blair scores a hit as prime minister in waiting

Tony Blair repaid his debt to the Labour Party in his conference address at Blackpool yesterday. It's conventional to say that the leader's speech is directed not at the audience in the hall but through the television cameras to the wider public beyond. And, of course, that's the imperative. But as Blair recognised yesterday, the party matters, too.

The brilliance of the speech was that – faced with the familiar dilemma of whether to massage the party or to appeal directly to the voters in Middle England – he did both. It was not just gratitude, although he certainly owes much to his party. He also knows the party is the only instrument he has to make victory certain. To maximise the effort by every delegate to knock on millions of doors in council estates and villages and get the vote out, he had to overcome their latent anxieties about what he would do with power. Largely, he succeeded. The party understands, better perhaps than some of the floating voters it has to win over, that he cannot spell out to them everything he wants to do without the risk of blowing the election. And after yesterday they seemed prepared to trust his subliminal message that he would be a far more radical prime minister than he appears at present.

Blair did not kowtow to party members; but his message to them was that he knows that their trust – first in electing him, then in allowing him to transform the party – has now put him within reach of being prime minister. It was there in the repeated references to the victories of 1945 and 1964, while much of what Blair has written suggests that he regards Asquith's victory in 1906 as a more congenial parallel. It was there in the homage to the Labour campaign against Apartheid. It was there in the lavish praise for John Prescott and Robin Cook. And it was there in his affecting reference to Jack Jones' heroism as an International Brigade volunteer on the Ebro during the Spanish Civil War.

This last perhaps is especially appropriate: to many of the younger Blairites, Jack Jones represents the most Jurassic elements of old Labour. They forget that he spent two long years trying to sustain a creaking Labour government's counter-inflation policy in the mid-Seventies and that he wants a Blair victory as much as they do. The straightest of men, Jones has striven to reach an accord on pensions that would head off a damaging split today. And it was there, above all, in the pointed recognition that "this party only survived for new members to join because the old members stuck with it through thick and thin".

The fact that Blair was also able to appeal to the aspiring C2 voter, polishing his Ford Sierra – whom Thatcher stole from Labour in 1979 – was sweetened even for the most uncertain delegates by the thrill of approach-



Donald Macintyre

The party seemed prepared to trust Blair's subliminal message that he would be a far more radical PM than he appears

ing power. For Blair played the part of prime minister for the day, rehearsing the role that every member of his audience is now sure he will be playing for real in seven months' time. Promising anti-sleaze laws, announcing his performance contract for Britain and, above all, announcing that he would open immediate negotiations with European governments about how he would handle the British EU Presidency in 1998, he was the PM in waiting. At one point he even referred by mistake to "the Labour government today". If this was hubris, the conference loved it.

There was also something prime ministerial about what was in a curious way the central, winning, moment of the speech. There was no stunning news to match his decision to replace Clause IV in 1994. He didn't, wisely, attempt to repeat the headline announcement he made last year that BT had agreed to give up schools – an announcement that became more confusing the more you looked at it. Holding the ring between a shadow chancellor who wants to maximise the chances of joining EMU, and a shadow foreign secretary who is deeply sceptical, he gave nothing away on the single currency.

But he made the commitment to hand handbags in the wake of Dunblane sound like an executive decision. It isn't new. We know that the ban is Labour policy. But the conference loved it. And not just because it provided the affecting moment of passion from a man who seldom shows it in public. It's possible that John Major will next week announce immediate action on the issue. Like all the best ideas, it is so stunningly obvious that it is hard to believe that a few mullah Tory MPs on the Home Affairs Committee got their party into such a muddle that Mr Major hasn't acted already. But nothing could better dramatise Labour as the party of the common man. Ordinary people across the whole spectrum of political opinion – the handbag lobby excepted – from Bennites to the law-and-order right want the ban.

But he also recognises that the alarms and excursions over the summer, from Clare Short to Roy Hattersley, were more than just undisciplined. They tapped into a real unease about the party's uncompromising appeal to the undecided voter. Blair didn't agonise at all about including in his speech highly personal references to the painful lessons of his father's stroke. But he agonised long and hard about whether to include mentioning attending the funeral of that old Labour stalwart Sam McCuskie. The story was a paradigm, in a way, of Blair's relationship with his party.

"We didn't always see eye to eye," he told the conference yesterday. But they had both wanted the same thing – a better world. Blair persuaded his party – at least until polling day – that while they may not all see eye to eye, they do all want the same thing.

BOOK REVIEW

A modern Gin Lane

The general election draws near: the government smears ever more tenuous mendacity across the billboards. Labour struggles not to offend C2s, the *Daily Mail* anyone at all – and Nick Danziger brings us a timely corrective. This book has its flaws, but it is nonetheless so important that every one of us should read it and weep. A journey through the world of Jarvis Cocker's "Common People" (who "watch their lives slide out of view, and dance and drink and screw, because there's nothing else to do") this is a chilling indictment of what we've let happen in the past two decades.

Fathers and sons race each other to abandoned properties in Newcastle: the fathers want to strip off anything salvageable, roof slates or window frames or copper piping, before their sons arrive and burn the place down. Vandals break into a Liverpool infants' school, mess the kids' puzzles into a pile, then crap on them. In Brighton one lad slurs to Danziger, "Think drugs, take drugs, eat drugs". He finds junkies shooting up in rural Suffolk, and a pregnant teenage mother in Cornwall smoking dope while her 18-month-old daughter batters her doll. He finds Glasgow mothers hurrying child after child, gone to jellies and smack, while the children that are still alive steal from them to buy their own road to an early grave.

This is a bleak terrain of forged money and bored kids, of lottery dreams and stabblings of abuse by fist and needle. More than once Danziger senses the adrenalin shudder of being in a war zone, surrounded by feral children on desolate wasteland in Salford he writes, "I felt like Currier". Broken dreams? These children never had dreams to break. A

Danziger's Britain: A Journey to the Edge
By Nick Danziger
HarperCollins, £18

There are here 'so many sad stories it would bring tears to a glass eye'

homeless girl in Leicester, steadily fouling up on her probation, says mournfully, "I just wish I had a better life than I had done". There are here, as one man says of Glasgow, "so many sad stories it would bring tears to a glass eye". There are also stories of resilience in adversity, of priceless voluntary work and heroic self-help – but they're guttering candles in a dark waste of poverty. "Mum, don't die yet," a woman in South Wales fondly tells her senile mother as she props her up to feed her, "I can't afford the flowers." Or there's the girl in Suffolk going quietly off her head because she's on £22.10 a week (when the bus fare to Ipswich to sign on is £5.70 return) and they're telling her they'll cut it off if she doesn't do the same training course she's done twice already. At every turn you feel the stress, the rage, the pain and despair.

Through these bitter scenes, Danziger's writing remains always fluent, lucid and humane. He sometimes writes regional accents rather uncertainly, and

I'd quibble with the seeming presumption of the title – but he's given us his *Travels and Adventures* already, so I suppose he's lumbered with that, and doubtless publishers want writers all to be brands these days anyway. Between the covers, however, this is prose without presumption or judgment, gathering the stories of the abandoned with a clear-eyed sadness.

Unlike the stories themselves, his occasional observations upon them are mostly unremarkable – but then, God knows, what's happened to great swathes of British society is obvious enough, if only anyone cared to look. I must say also that there are too many of these stories; an editor should have been more ruthless, not simply because it would have been a better book, but because, at 356 pages, fewer people will buy it than it deserves. The price, though justified by many excellent photographs, will be a deterrent too – but Tony Blair, for one, has £18 to spare, and he should spend it immediately. Every time I see him or Gordon Brown buttoning the lip on tax, I shall think of the people in these pages.

The other day, I took a friend back from a football game to her home in a broken ex-mining village in Yorkshire; and he should spend it immediately. Every time I see him or Gordon Brown buttoning the lip on tax, I shall think of the people in these pages.

And we forget, don't we? We forget all the people sacrificed on Mammon's altar these past harsh years, because it's easier that way. For providing us with this most potent reminder, Danziger deserves all praise, and the widest possible readership.

Pete Davies

When MPs start taking the biscuits

by Andrew Marr

The humiliating collapse of the Neil Hamilton and Ian Greer libel case against *The Guardian* ought to reignite public anger about corruption in British politics. Up to now, we have tended to shy away from the word, preferring the vaguer, slithering term "sleaze". But for politicians to take envelopes stuffed with cash and work to order in the House of Commons is corrupt.

Hamilton is portraying himself as a bounded victim of vindictive press reporting, driven from justice by personal poverty. Looking in from the outside, he seems more like a bumptious corner-cutter disgraced by good, old-fashioned journalism.

How far does the damage spread in British politics? This has not been a case packed with heroes – Mohammed al Fayed, whose information gave *The Guardian* its story, was the man stuffing the MPs' envelopes, and we report this morning on Labour MPs who also took payments from Mr Greer, despite his reputation. But the most severe damage is to the Conservative Party, whose leader had been trying so hard to reclaim some moral high ground of late.

A trial, though, would have been worse. Hidden books and minutes would have been exposed. With the Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine and a gallery of lesser Conservative luminaries in the witness box, and day after day of evidence dominating news bulletins, it might well have helped finish Major's administration off in the most spectacular way.

Just when the Government had banked on beginning to really close the gap with Labour, using its own conference, the Queen's speech and the Budget, there would have been a serious risk of the Hamilton-Greer affair moving the polls the other way. Corruption has been out of the news; but there is no evidence that the public are less censorious when reminded of it.

To a limited extent, the collapse of the trial will cause similar damage to the Tory cause. It gave Tony Blair a gift yesterday in his combat with Mr Major for the mantle of morality. But one of the bleak truths of modern journalism is that the media's attention span is short, following a trail is important, but following a trial is so much easier.

So, what follows? There will be more revelations, I expect; an unpacking and unwinding of



Hamilton was warmly supported throughout his bluster; there was rather a lot of 'there but for the grace of God ...'

quiet, hole-in-the-corner deals from years ago. The list of named MPs who have taken money for questions or lobbying ministers will grow. There will be, almost inevitably, an accumulation of small but somehow particularly embarrassing details – such as the image of MPs calling persistently for their envelopes from a company security man.

But none of this will change our essential information, which is that MPs acted as covert and paid messenger-boys for commercial interests, recruited and organised by go-betweens calling themselves "consultants". This was what we knew before, when the Nolan committee was first recruited by the Prime Minister, but now we have more proof, more detail.

If nothing more is done, then the Tories will emerge more

damaged than Labour, but the real victim will be what remains of vigorous parliamentary democracy in Britain. Parliament's strongest support isn't in any constitutional textbook; it is the enthusiastic assent of the people. That has been ebbing away, partly because of minor but disturbing corruption. Nothing menacing, just a dull weariness and suspicion has replaced our patriotic liking for the Westminster way. If it were not thus, then the transfers of power to the European Union and the private sector would not have been possible.

And here is a funny thing: Mr Hamilton is a staunch Eurosceptic, forever fulminating in defence of British parliamentary democracy. Yet he and his like, by failing to observe private and previously unwritten understandings about acceptable public behaviour, have

contributed to undermining it.

So, unless one is an utter cynic about the parliamentary system, it barely needs saying that the reputation of the Commons must be protected against repetitions of these cases. Mr Major will surely say that this is all historical stuff, debris from the days before he and Lord Nolan's clubs cleaned up the Commons.

There is truth in that, but not quite enough to reassure us. The Nolan process resulted in two important changes. First, the "MP for hire" was outlawed: paid advocacy was banned. Second, Members were required to publish, within broad bands, their earnings as MPs from outside interests. Though Mr Major himself was away on the night of the vote, 6 November last year, he fully supported the majority of Conservatives who voted

against the disclosure of earnings; it was carried only thanks to a far-sighted minority of Tory rebels who realised how deep the damage had been to Parliament.

These changes were indeed a big break with the past and regarded as unconstitutional by some Tory traditionalists. They argued that if you shackled MPs with such rules, and put them under the watchful eye of a parliamentary ombudsman, currently Sir Gordon Downey, then you reduce them to salaried, gelded noddies.

It is a good, rather romantic-sounding case: who would not prefer a Parliament of stalwart independents to an assembly of nervous order-takers? The truth, however, is that the 20th-century refinement of the party system has already reduced the vast majority of MPs to loyal acquiescence under the whips. All the Nolan process did was to cut away some easy sources of income which were being abused, and oblige MPs to tell their constituents more about who was paying for their time.

The question now is whether the Hamilton affair, and the question-marks over nearly two dozen other MPs, mean that the Commons should go further. In practice, it is out of the question that the Conservative Party will. Even the mildest versions of Nolan reformism produced furious rebellions in the party; in its current fragile state, it is incapable of agreeing to any further changes.

So the burden passes to Tony Blair and, perhaps, Paddy Ashdown. Coming from different traditions, and less in thrall to Burke, Dickey and other Westminster theorists, they would find it less hard than Tories to introduce yet tougher curbs.

Yet even after Nolan, the Commons remains essentially a club, whose members often protect one another. Hamilton was warmly supported throughout his bluster: there was rather a lot of "there but for the grace of God ..."

Clubs are warm places, and enjoyable no doubt. But they are not good at self-criticism. At the very least, the rules need to be policed by a watchdog with stronger powers than Sir Gordon. If not, there will be further MPs gaily taking the biscuit; and the reputation of our most important institution will decline some more. Yet more regulations and officialdom at Westminster: fewer colourful characters. It is a somewhat dismal recommendation. But a duller Commons is infinitely preferable to a more corrupt one.

Can Barbie turn into Maggie?

Donna Karan must have taken one look at her client and looked some extra time on her reputation rock. She was blonde, a bit plastic around the edges and positively teetering on shoes that made her feet look bent.

For a moment, she panicked. Could it be Pammy seeking a change of image? But then, huge relief, Karan recognised an old friend. Barbie Millicent Roberts is 37, single, and

the most popular woman in the world, with sales figures that top six million each week. But Karan was more worried about another kind of figure: with measurements of 36-18-33, DK knew that there was no way she would ever have to design for a woman like this again.

Actually, researchers in Australia reveal that the chances of a human woman looking like a Barbie doll are about one in 100,000. If you think about it, this explains her popularity.

Her friend Ken is less of a fantasy: "The probability is more realistic, at one in 50," reported Kevin Norton of the University of South Australia. The fact that he is nearer to reality explains his lack of popularity.

Barbie and her friends have had 910 million fashions produced for them (including Donna's black tunic and belted skirt) and she has more shoes than Imelda Marcos (more than a million pairs). So it comes as no surprise to discover that she did not have a thing to wear this autumn and had to turn to the fashion design students at Central St Martin's College of Art and Design. Last week, 20 of their designs made it to the catwalk for the Barbie Fashion Awards. Categories were professional, casual and (naturally) ballgown.

"We said to them: Barbie is your client, so go out and design for her," says a Barbie spokeswoman. "After all, she is, in her own right, a fashion icon."

Wendy Dagworthy, course director,

believes Barbie is more cult than icon, but, whatever she is, she is a very busy one. First, there are her careers: they include estate agent, teacher, doctor, and in-line skating champion. Then there is her social circle: she comes from an unstable background with no parents (*Daily Mail* alert) and friends and family that change every year. Perhaps to make up for this, she suffers from a Michael Jackson-type pet syndrome: she has 16 dogs, 10 horses, four cats, a parrot, a chimpanzee, a panda, a lion cub, a giraffe and a zebra.

The students had to keep all this in mind as they headed to their meditation rocks. Twenty designs made it to the catwalk, but only three could be chosen by judges, who included Ren Pearce of Pearce Fionda. Winners were Tuxedo Barbie – cross-dressing has clearly come of age – and Inflatable Beach Barbie (also known as Blow-Up Barbie) whose PVC gingham sundress becomes an inflatable swimdress with one puff of air.

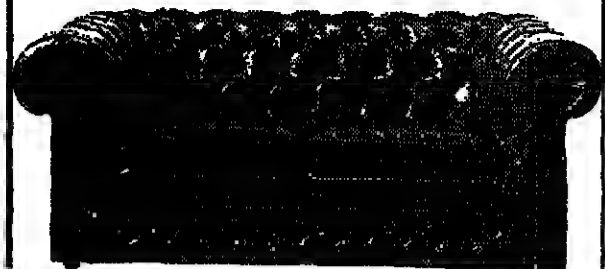
But what is she wearing to the office these days? That is the question tackled by fashion student Luigi Avenso and his Easy Chic Barbie, to be made into a Limited Edition Collector doll this autumn at £150 each.

Easy Chic is wearing a black suit with contrast white lining. Key co-ordinates include handbag, sunglasses, white gloves and black shoes. Oh, and a black-and-white marabou feathered hat. It's a relief to know we can wear marabou to the office again.

But is marabou really sending the right message? Perhaps it's time Barbie got a little more serious. There is another woman whose name was Roberts, had a thing about handbags and lived in a fantasy world. Can Prime Minister Barbie be far behind? Start designing that handbag now.

Ann Treneman

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obituaries / gazette

Aubrey Brabazon

Aubrey's up, the money's down
The frightened bookies quake,
Come on, me lads, and give a cheer!
Begod, its Cottage Rake!
Immortalised in the famous
Irish anthem to the Cheltenham
Festival, Aubrey Brabazon was
one of the outstanding riders of
his and any generation, winning
top races in the arenas of both
Flat and National Hunt racing.

He was one of only six men
to have won the two prestigious
Cheltenham events – the
Champion Hurdle and the
Gold Cup – in the same season.

He was regarded as a
supremely stylish jockey, some-
thing he demonstrated with
three successive Gold Cup vic-
tories on Cottage Rake (be-
tween 1948 and 1950) and two
on Champion Hurdler Hat-
ton's Grace (1949 and 1950),
both for the legendary Irish
trainer Vincent O'Brien.

It is easy for someone far
from free of vices during his or
her lifetime to resemble in salient
when it comes to their obituary.
With Brabazon, the verdict is
that he was genuinely good
and popular. Affectionately
known as "the Brah", just as his
most famous equine partner was
known as "the Rake", he was
once described as a "friend to
all, a man who knows everyone
in Ireland". One of his proudest
moments out of the saddle came
when Jammets, the fa-
mous, now-defunct French
restaurant in Dublin, named a
cocktail after him.

Although he was undoubtedly
elegant in the saddle, there was
something of a buccaneer side to
Brabazon as a jockey. Not many
riders are captured with a grin

on their face as he was when he
jumped the last fence on Cot-
tage Rake on their way to their
third Gold Cup victory. (He had
spent the build-up to Cottage
Rake's first Gold Cup in the bar
at Cheltenham sharing a brandy
with O'Brien.) And not many
jockeys, after falling in the
Grand National, would lie on a
stretcher, wrapped in a blanket
and being tended by two wor-
ried-looking people, with a spir-
it bottle in his left hand. Yet that
was exactly the Brabazon re-
sponse to falling from Luan
Casca at Becher's Brook in the
1947 National.

He was once slated in an Irish
newspaper for dropping his
bands too soon and getting
beaten on an odds-on favourite.
"Brabazon Caught Napping"
was the headline, which
prompted O'Brien to respond,
"If so, it was the only sleep poor
Aubrey got all week."

Brabazon was born into a rac-
ing family – his father Cecil ran
a powerful yard of Flat and
jumps horses on The Curragh
in County Kildare. Aubrey had
his first ride at the age of 13, and
was apprenticed to his father at
14. His first of 406 winners in
Ireland came a year later, in
1935, when he partnered Queen
Christina at Phoenix Park.

In 1946 he shared the Irish
jockeys' championship with his
friend and rival Martin Molony
with 30 wins each. At this time
there was only one champlionship
for which both Flat and
jumps victories counted.

On the Flat, Brabazon was
top-class, winning two Irish
Classics, with the Aga Khan's



Captured with a grin on his face: Brabazon and Cottage Rake jump the last fence to win their third Gold Cup at Cheltenham, 1950

1948 Irish Oaks winner Masaka
and Mighty Ocean in the
1950 Irish 2,000 Guineas. Only
a broken arm, suffered in a fall
from Cottage Rake, prevented
him from riding the Irish Derby
winner Charming, a horse who
was accused, falsely, of being
doped and sensationally cost
O'Brien his licence for a while.

But it was his relationship
with O'Brien – for whom he ac-
ted as usher when O'Brien mar-
ried his wife Jacqueline – and his
brilliant jumps horses that
Brabazon earned his reputation.
He even rode O'Brien's first
steeplechase winner, Panay, in
June 1945. Not only was he re-
garded as supremely stylish, he
was ice-cool in a race and rarely

resorted to use of the whip.
O'Brien said of him: "Aubrey is
a really brilliant jockey, espe-
cially on the big occasion. Good
hands and an understanding of
the horse are far better than
booting... it is not necessary
to boot (i.e. urge a horse into a
fence, using the feet to kick into
a horse's girth to spur him on)."

Brabazon's brilliant race im-
permeability was nowhere better
demonstrated than at Chel-
tenham, 1948, when Cottage
Rake won his first Gold Cup.
Martin Molony on the better
fancied runner, Happy Home,
was trying to unsettle Cottage
Rake as he approached the last
by spurring his mount into ac-
tion.

Brabazon would not be drawn
into a premature battle. In the
days when there were no race
commentaries, O'Brien had
watched this race from the final
fence. Seeing Happy Home
jump the last with a clear ad-
vantage, he assumed as he
trudged back to the unsaddling
enclosure that there was no way
Brabazon and Cottage Rake
could have closed the deficit.

He was wrong. Brabazon be-
came renowned for approaching
the last fence behind the lead-
ers. His ability to "see a stride"
as a horse was approaching an
obstacle, meant his horses would
frequently be tucked in behind
the leaders at crucial stages
of a race, simply waiting to

pounce with a decisive late strike.

After he retired from the saddle,
Brabazon trained with a de-
gree of success, winning races
such as the Ulster Derby, Ulster
National and Hennessy Hand-
icap. He was also a former di-
rector of Curragh Bloodstock
Agency and in 1983 was made
an honorary member of the
Irish National Hunt Steeple-
chase Committee.

Richard Griffiths

Aubrey Brabazon, racehorse
trainer and jockey: born The
Curragh, County Kildare 7 Jan-
uary 1920; married Eileen Dwyer
1948 (four sons, three daughters);
died The Curragh, County Kil-
dare 30 September 1996.

Professor
Kenneth Muir

The eminent Shakespearean
scholar Kenneth Muir was one
of the last of the patriarch-
professors in the Arts Faculties
of English provincial universi-
ties. For 23 years, from 1951 to
1974, as King Alfred Professor
of English Literature at Liver-
pool University, he presided
with benevolent autocracy over
one of the best English de-
partments in the country, en-
couraging such diverse talents
as the two Allotts, Kenneth and
Miriam, G.K. Hunter, Ernest
Schanzer, Inga-Stina Ewbank,
Hermione Lee, Brian Nellist,
and many others. He looked
after everything himself, in-
cluding admissions and the an-
nouncement of the degree-list,
until nearly the end of his
reign. If you phoned the de-
partment, as often as not he
would answer.

Muir made his name with the
New Arden editions of *King
Lear* and *Macbeth*, which he pre-
pared with characteristic speed,
so that they were the first to be
published in that famous series.
In 1951-52, he wrote extensively
on Shakespeare's imagery, and
made notable contributions on
the sources of the plays. Al-
though most of his work was on
Shakespeare and the dramatists
of his time, he also edited Sir
Thomas Wyatt's poems and
wrote his biography. The wide
range of his writings included
work on Keats, Milton, Ibsen
and Restoration comedy. He
translated Racine and Cal-
derón, and was very pleased
at the praise his Racine trans-
lation received when he was
awarded an honorary doctorate
at Dijon.

Muir's father, a doctor, died
when he was seven. He was
educated, on a free place, at Ep-
som, and although he was not
much in sympathy with the
school's outlook, and later
wrote to the Headmaster, "I am
one of your failures", he became
a prefect and won numerous
prizes. He abandoned his medi-
cal studies in London and read
English at Oxford, at St Ed-
mund Hall; he blamed his lack
of interest in the linguistic ap-
proach to Old English literature
for his not getting a First.

In 1931 Muir was appointed
to a lectureship at St John's Col-
lege, York, largely on the
strength of a recommendation
from the First Laureate, John
Masefield, who, mistaking him
for another Muir, had given him
a leading part in *The Comedy of
Errors*. He was sacked on three
separate occasions for opposing
compulsory chapel and being
too familiar with the students,
but on each occasion was re-
instated by the governors, whose
chairman, the Archbishop of
York, William Temple, was on
his side (he thought) because he
liked the Shakespeare produc-
tions Muir had been doing for
the York Settlement.

Muir brought out his first vol-
ume of poems, *The Nettle and
the Flower*, in 1933, and collab-
orated with Sean O'Casey in a
study of Shakespeare's im-
agery, *The Voyage to Ithaca*,
published in 1937. He became
a lecturer at Leeds University
in the same year.

He was tireless in publishing
notes and short articles, so
much so that in the Sixties his
colleagues used to call *Notes and
Queries* "Old Muir's Almanac".
During the Shakespeare Con-
ference at Stratford-upon-Avon
he could be seen on the terrace
of the Dirty Duck banding out
offprints of his latest views on
the chronology of Marlowe's
plays.

With broad forehead and
keen blue eyes, lean of face and
lean of build, Muir was a tall and
impressive figure. There was a
natural distinction in his bear-

ing, though he cared little about
clothes. He loved the theatre
and was very proud of his per-
formances and productions, es-
pecially at Leeds. When he
retired from Liverpool, his col-
leagues staged *The Tempest* in
his honour, and he played Pros-
pero. He spoke the poetry
beautifully. He had a great
fond of reminiscences about
pre-war productions of Shake-
speare, and was a devoted
admirer of the actresses
he approved of, particularly
Peggy Ashcroft and Judi Dench.

He was a lifelong Labour sup-
porter, undertaking a great deal
of journalism in his younger
days, and serving as Labour
councillor in both Leeds and
Birkenhead. An immensely
kind, thoughtful, sensitive and
generous person, he was also
very reserved, and those closest
to him could only guess at the
quality and depth of his emo-
tional life. His wife, Mary, died
of leukaemia in 1975. In the
years that followed he was very
close to his daughter Katharine,
who lectured in psychology at
Keele, and her death in 1981,
also of leukaemia, was a very
great blow to him.

For many years, Kenneth
Muir was a commanding figure



Muir: Shakespeare's imagery

In English academic life and in
the international world of
Shakespeare studies, his very
active intellectual life continued
throughout his long retirement.
As editor of the influential
journal *Shakespeare Survey*, and
long-time chairman of the In-
ternational Shakespeare Asso-
ciation, he remained very much
at the centre of things, and was
contributing chapters to books,
and papers to conferences, un-
til a few weeks before his death.
The revolution in literary studies
in the Eighties pained him
deeply, and he was very shak-
en when in the last year of his
life someone called him a
reactionary.

Although he was a pillar of
that less than revolutionary so-
ciety, the British Academy, he
always saw himself as a rebel
and a radical. Conservative or
radical, he had an alert, clear
and capacious mind, an amaz-
ingly retentive memory, and he
loved literature passionately
for its human values. Genera-
tions of students, colleagues,
and fellow scholars remember
him with affection and
gratitude.

Philip Edwards

Kenneth Muir, English scholar:
born London 5 May 1907; Lec-
turer in English, St John's Col-
lege, York 1930-37; Lecturer in
English Literature, Leeds Uni-
versity 1937-51; King Alfred Pro-
fessor of English Literature,
Liverpool University 1951-74
(Emeritus); Dean of the Faculty
of Arts 1958-61; Public Orator
1961-65; Editor, *Shakespeare
Survey* 1965-80; FBA 1970;
FRSL 1978; married 1936 Mary
Even (died 1975; one son, and
one daughter deceased); died
Birkenhead 30 September 1996.

Joan Perry

Harry Cohn, the autocratic
founder and production head
of Columbia Pictures, enjoyed
demonstrating his power over
contract players by assigning
them new names. Jack Lemmon
defied his employer by refusing
to change his name to
Lennon, but Cohn succeeded in
turning Margherita Casinovi into
Rita Hayworth. Harriette Lake
into Anna Sothern, Gwyneth
Samuel Newton Ford into
Glenn Ford, and Betty Miller
into Joan Perry. He later
changed her name again when
he made her the second Mrs
Harry Cohn. (According to
Hollywood legend, he called her
into his office and declared, "I'm
going to make Hayworth a star,
and you my wife.")

The daughter of a prominent
Florida railroad executive, Betty
Miller wanted desperately to
act on the stage. She came to
New York in her late teens, and
worked as a fashion model to
finance her drama lessons. A
brief marriage to a photographer
ended in divorce. Harry
Cohn was 44, and still shakily
married to his first wife when,
one night in 1935, he saw tall,
green-eyed, 21-year old Betty
dancing with an escort in New
York's Central Park Casino.
Introducing himself, the mogul

impulsively invited her to make
a screen test in Hollywood.

That test was the talk of Col-
umbia Pictures: Cohn lavished
an unprecedented 1,200 feet of
film on it. "He really must go
for this gal," whispered one of
his henchmen. "He's made whole
features that cost less!" It came
as no surprise when the new
contract was signed to a studio
contract.

Reviewing the film *Shake-
dore* (1936), in which she ap-
peared opposite Lew Ayres,
Variety stated, "Ayres has been
seen to much better advan-
tage. And he is not given much
help by Joan Perry, apparently
debuting in *inferno* leads in this.
Needs grooming." Before her
next film, the crime story *Counter-
feit Lady* (1937), Perry clearly
had received that grooming:
the same critic reported, "She
displays rare charm and unex-
pected thespian ability, going
through the implausible gem-
thief role like a vet trouper."

Of the dozen-odd films she
made at Columbia (most of
them supporting features), the
best was the screwball comedy
Good Girls Go to Paris (1939),
in which she shone as a rich
snob who loses college profes-
sor Melvyn Douglas to waitress
Joan Blondell. Perry demon-

strated independence by mak-
ing MGM's *Maisie Was a Lady*
(1941), her first film away from
Columbia. She then accepted a
one-year contract with Warner
Brothers, for whom she ap-
peared opposite Anthony
Quinn in *Bullets for O'Hara*,
Arthur Kennedy in *Strange Al-
ibi*, and Ronald Reagan in *Nine
Lives Are Not Enough* and *In-
ternational Squadron* (all 1941).

On 31 July 1941, a month af-
ter Cohn finally accepted a di-
vorce from his long-estranged
wife, he and Perry were married,
and she retired from the screen.
Their first child, a daughter,
died 30 minutes after birth,
but they had two sons and an
adopted daughter. A converted
Catholic, the new Mrs Cohn
persuaded her Jewish husband
to allow their children to be
raised in her religion. A gracious
hostess, she made their Bever-
ly Hills home the scene of Hol-
lywood's most elegant dinner
parties. Although Cohn was the
most feared and hated of all the
film moguls (Ben Hecht nick-
named him "White Fang"), his
second marriage lasted 17 years.

Harry Cohn died in 1958,
leaving his widow \$2m and the
largest single stock holding in
Columbia Pictures. Thanks to as-
tute investment, she more than

quintupled her inheritance, but
took no part in the business of
the studio. "I could have screwed
my hair into a bun and become
another woman executive," she
said. "I leave the running of the
company to the board. My job
is being a woman."

She was a much sought-after
woman. Her old friend the ly-
ricist Sammy Cahn suggested
that, were she to marry again,
an ideal husband would be the
actor Franchot Tone – as she'd
then be Joan Cohn Tone. Ac-
tually in 1959 she became Joan
Cohn Karl, but her marriage to
the multi-millionaire shoe man-
ufacturer Harry Karl ended in
divorce after only 21 days. For
most of the 1960s she was the
constant companion of Lau-
rence Harvey. They married in
1968, but divorced four years later.
A rumoured engagement to
Tab Hunter never materialised.

"I didn't want to be a star,"
said Joan Perry Cohn in 1962.
"What would have happened to
my marriage if I had?"

Dick Vosburgh

Elizabeth Rosalind Miller (Joan
Perry), actress: born Pensacola,
Florida 7 July 1911; four times
married (two sons, one adopted
daughter); died Santa Barbara,
California 15 September 1996.



'Rare charm and unexpected thespian ability': Perry with Lionel
Stander in *Meet Nero Wolfe* (1936). Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

Shusaku Endo

It was honest of James Kirkup,
in his obituary of Shusaku Endo
[1 October], to admit that
"Endo was one of those Japan-
ese writers, like Mishima and
Oe, who never appealed to
me", writes Anthony Thwaite.
Endo was not only both popu-
lar and highly regarded in

Japan: his books had many ad-
mirers in the English-speaking
world, including Graham
Greene, Francis King, Penelope
Lively, John Updike, Angus
Wilson. And, for all the scri-
ousness of his work, he had an
additional reputation in Japan
as an entertainer, even a bit

of a clown, running a chorus
of singers who proclaimed
themselves to be the worst in
Japan.

He was very good company,
and astonishingly generous. In
the late 1980s, he set up a trust
with rich Catholic friends (in
particular Kenzo Kogi, who

runs a travel agency) in order
to organise and finance the
exchange of writers, artists,
and musicians. In September
December 1989 I was the ben-
eficiary of such a grant, and to-
wards the end of my time in
Japan Endo invited me to join
him and a few friends on a tour

of Nagasaki and other southern
sites, including several signifi-
cant ones in the history of
early Japanese Christianity.
Though weak in health (as
Kirkup points out), Endo never
seemed to let this drag him
down; he was lively, learned,
affable, and witty.

I think it extremely unlikely
that any "grievous disappoint-
ment at not receiving the No-
bel Prize had contributed to a
sudden decline in his already
unstable health". Endo had too
much sense of balance, and too
much sense of humour, to have
allowed any such thing.

Births,
Marriages
& Deaths

DEATHS

BERNARD: Marjorie, much-loved wife
of Tom and mother of David and
Steven, peacefully at home on 1 Oc-
tober. Funeral (family and friends) at
Golders Green crematorium on
Thursday 3 October at 10.45am. No
flowers please, but any donations to
Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund or to
Eden Hall Hospice, London NW3.

IRVING: Dr Vincent Leo, peacefully on
29 September at St Barnabas Hospice,
Fulham and resident at St Edmund's
College, Ware, on Friday 4 October
at 12 noon. Family flowers only. If de-
sired donations for St Barnabas Hos-
pice, Lincoln, to R. Ash & Sons,
Lincoln Road, Basingstoke, Lincoln
LN5 9TX.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and
the Queen: A royal wedding ceremony at
Westminster Abbey, London, on 10 Oc-
tober. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince
Charles and the Queen will be married
at 11.30am. The ceremony will be
broadcast on television. The Duke of
Edinburgh, Prince Charles and the Queen
will be married at 11.30am. The ceremony
will be broadcast on television. The Duke
of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and the
Queen will be married at 11.30am. The
ceremony will be broadcast on television.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment
will change the Guard at Horse Guards, London,
on 10 October.

Birthdays

Mr Trevor Brooking, footballer, 48;
Dr William Cramond, clinical psy-
chiatrist, 70; Lord Davies, Chairman
of Welsh National Opera, 56; Sir Brian
Dillon, a former Lord Justice of
Appeal, 71; Professor Sir Robin
Duthie, former chairman, Britoil, 68;
Miss Anna Ford, broadcaster, 53; Mr
Peter Frank, pianist, 61; Sir John
Gordon, Master, Magdalene College,
Cambridge, 63; Mr Peter Hobson,
former Headmaster, Charterhouse
School, 52; Colonel Geoffrey Luttrell,
former Lord-Lieutenant of Somers-
et, 77; Mr Don McLean, folk singer,
51; Mrs Jean Morris, author, 70; Mr
James Porter, former Director-Gen-
eral, Commonwealth Institute, 68; Mr
Vivian Ridler, former Printer to Ox-
ford University, 83; The Right Rev
Lord Runcie, former Archbishop
of Canterbury, 75; The Right
Rev Roger Salter, Bishop of
Barking, 60; Sir Richard Scott, Vice-
Chancellor of the Supreme Court, 62;
Sir Stirling (Mr Gordon Sumner), rock
singer, 45; Mr Gary Sweeney MP, 41;
Mr Duncan Thomson, Keeper, Scot-
tish National Portrait Gallery, 62;
Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Tippet,
former Chief of Fleet Support, 60;
Lord Todd, chemist, 89; Mr Sam
Wainwright, former deputy chairman,
Post Office, 72; Lt-Col Eric Wilson
VC, 84.

Anniversaries

Births: Richard III, King, 1452;
Philip Chatrian Hambley Potter, pi-
anist and composer, 1922; Mikhail
Yuryevich Lermontov (Leamontov),
poet, 1814; Paul Ludwig Hans von
Benedek von Hinderburg, Ger-
man field marshal and president.

1847: Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of
France, 1851; Sir William Ramsay,
chemist, 1852; Charles de Souza
Ricketts, artist, 1866; Mohandas
Karamchand Gandhi, Indian leader,
1869; Wallace Stevens, poet, 1879;
Julius "Groucho" Marx, comedian,
1890; Ignatius Ray, Diocesan
Campbell, poet, 1901; Henry Graham
Greene, novelist, 1904; Deafest Isaac
Oliver, miniature painter, 1617; Ad-
miral Augustus Keppel, first Viscount,
naval commander and politician,
1786; José María de Heredia, poet,
1905; Max Bruch, composer, 1920;
Marie Stopes, birth control pioneer,
1898; Marcel Duchamp (Henri-
Pierre Roche), Surrealist painter,
1896; Rock Hudson (Roy Fitzgerald
Scherrer), actor, 1925; Sir Peter
Brian Medawar, medical scientist, 1927.
On this day: Saladin entered
Jerusalem, 1187; Rome became the
capital city of Italy, 1870; Brigham
Young, Mormon leader, was arrested
for bigamy, 1871; the first Royal
Naval submarine was launched at
Barrow, 1901; the first rugby football
match was played at Twickenham,
1909; Italy invaded Abyssinia, 1935;
Guinea became an independent re-
public, 1958; the musical show *Hat-
natch* was first produced in London,
1958; the first London performance
of the musical show *Promises, Prom-
ises* was presented, 1968; Neil Kinnock
became leader of the Labour Party,
1983. Today is the Feast Day of St
Eleutherius of Nicomedia. The
Guardian Angels and St Leger or
Loodegarus.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum:
Nicholas Humphrey, "Seventeenth-

century Continental Interiors",
2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Sarah Greenberg,
"Family Portraits through the Ages",
1pm.

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins,
"Peter Blake (I): Now We are 64",
1pm.

Graphic College (Baron's Inn
Hall, London EC1): Professor Ian
Stewart, "The Practical Fractal",
1pm.

Institute of Economic Affairs: Dr
Andrew Godley, "Immigration, En-
terprise and Culture: the Jewish ex-
perience in London and New York
1880-1914", 6.30pm.

Robert Tewdwr Moss

A memorial service for Robert Louis
Tewdwr Moss will be held at 2.30pm
on Saturday 19 October at St Mary's
Church, Paddington, Paddington
Green.

Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Sir Nicholas Bonsor MP, Minister of
State for Foreign and Commow-
wealth Affairs, hosted a farewell
luncheon yesterday at the Royal
Garden Hotel in honour of Mr
Sergiu Celac, the Ambassador of Ro-
mania.

Wills

Mr Jon Pertwee, of London SW15,
the actor, the third Dr Who, left
estate valued at £418,995 net.
Sir Ewen Gordon Cox, of Hamp-
stead, London NW3, the pioneer of
early X-ray crystallography, left
estate valued at £45,211 net.

Landlord's notice could be dispensed with

LAW REPORT

2 October 1996

Boyle v Verrall; Court of Appeal
(Lord Justice Auld, Lord Justice
Thorpe) 26 July 1996

The court's discretion, where it
was "just and equitable", to
dispense with the requirement
that a landlord must have
served on the tenant, at the
time of the creation of the
tenancy, written notice that he
might require the property
back for his own or his spouse's
use, so as to entitle him to
terminate an assured tenancy
under ground 1 of Schedule 2
to the Housing Act 1988, was
not limited to exceptional
cases.

The Court of Appeal al-
lowed an appeal by the plain-
tiff, Rita Madeleine Boyle,
against the dismissal by Judge
Maher, sitting in Wandsworth
County Court on 3 August
1995, of her claim for possession
of a flat at 207b Castelnau,
Barnes, London, which she
had let to the defendant,
Richard Hugh Verrall.

Both litigants appeared in person.

Lord Justice Auld said
Mrs Boyle had let the flat to Mr
Verrall on 30 March 1993 at a
rent of £650 per month, later
increased to £700 per month.

It was, the judge held, an as-
sured tenancy under section 1,
terminable by Mrs Boyle
only on one of the grounds
specified in Schedule 2 to the
Act.

The issue was whether Mrs
Boyle was entitled to terminate
the tenancy on ground 1, namely
that she required the prop-
erty as a principal home for
her husband. A precondition of
entitlement under that ground
was that she had, before en-
tering into the tenancy agree-
ment, notified Mr Verrall in
writing that she might require
possession for that reason, or,
failing such notice, that she
could satisfy the judge that it
was just and equitable to
dispense with it.

The tenancy had been drawn
up on a standard form for an
assured short-term tenancy, as
defined in section 20 of the
1988 Act, and it was clear that
this was the tenancy Mrs Boyle
intended to create. She said she
had served on Mr Verrall,
when handing over the keys, a
written notice under section

20, but the judge was not con-
vinced she had done so. But
it was plain that she intended
to create an assured short-term
tenancy and that Mr Verrall
knew that was her intention
and that she had made a mis-
take in not completing the notice.

In September 1994, Mrs
Boyle stated in a letter to Mr
Verrall that she and her hus-
band would soon need the flat
back for their own use. Mr Ver-
rall, who was unemployed and
relied on housing benefit to pay
the rent, refused to move.

On her claim for possession
the judge held that, because of
the lack of a section 20 notice,
the tenancy was an assured, not
assured short-term, tenancy. He
further held that in the absence
of written notification that pos-
session might be required

sed with

[illegible]

Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING		DOLLAR		D-MARK
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot
US	138.46	7.5	2.9	0.654
Canada	100.00	14.03	3.4	0.690
Germany	2.1872	5.25	12.163	1.0000
France	8.0643	17.57	4.98	1.3394
Italy	22.919	43.58	12.15	1.3610
Spain	161.1	17.43	26.26	1.3610
EEU	125.25	20.27	10.00	1.3610
Belgium	49.144	14.0	36.31	1.3610
Denmark	16.620	105.10	3.31	0.688
Sweden	13.77	10.7	26.26	0.688
Ireland	0.0711	1.3	4.6	0.688
Norway	1.071	10.7	26.26	0.688
Spain	20.12	17.43	26.26	0.688
Switzerland	1.057	1.5	3.23	0.688
Australia	1.914	79.71	29.207	0.688
Japan	2.008	1.02	3.35	0.688
South Africa	3.954	0.0	3.4	0.688
New Zealand	2.2389	74.82	20.222	0.688
South Africa	2.2389	74.82	20.222	0.688
South Africa	2.2389	74.82	20.222	0.688
South Africa	2.2389	74.82	20.222	0.688

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	15648	08999	Congo	125427	60000
Australia	187834	10704	Costa Rica	100007	50000
Brazil	13982	10707	Pakistan	270011	36000
Canada	123922	8307	Philippines	41106	20000
China	53300	3409	Portugal	245308	16000
France	7600	4575	Spain	52890	9400
Germany	268237	16000	Switzerland	80400	56000
Greece	377290	20000	South Africa	7800	43000
India	557783	365500	Taiwan	430708	27000
Italy	04897	05001	UAE	57894	36700

Tourist Rates

C Bays		C Bays		C Bays	
Australia (dollars)	18000	France (Francs)	76995	New Zealand (Dollars)	2,870
Canada (dollars)	16,267	Germany (Mark)	2,332	Norway (Krone)	8900
Belgium (Francs)	479,452	Greece (Drachma)	368,027	Hong Kong (Pounds)	226,365
Canada (dollars)	2,0559	Italy (Lira)	19,125	Sri Lanka (Rupees)	184,800,000
Spain (Pesetas)	670,000	Taiwan (New Taiwan Dollars)	60,675	Switzerland (Francs)	10,740
Denmark (Kroner)	85,000	Thailand (Baht)	240,000	United Kingdom (Pounds)	1,000,000
Finland (Markka)	2,5876	Japan (Yen)	171,000	Turkey (Liras)	67,970,000,000
Poland (Zloty)	70,923	Mexico (Peso)	55,490	USA (Dollar)	1,000,000

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base	578%	Discount	Discount
France	Discount	Discount	Discount
Intervention	355%	Discount	Discount
Day	Discount	Discount	Discount
Netherlands	Discount	Discount	Discount
Advances	250%	Discount	Discount

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	27%	205	7 %	558	Netherlands	5 %	452	6%	590
US	6%	641	5.9%	568	Spain	10.0%	722	10.2%	780
Japan	5.5%	25	3%	284	Italy	9.1%	339	9 %	657
Australia	6.1%	725	9%	776	Belgium	5%	433	7%	582
Germany	5.81%	592	6.25%	606	Sweden	9%	659	6%	734
France	5.1%	598	7.25%	638	EU LHS	6%	627	7%	684

Yields calculated on 100% basis % Discount rate = 4.5%

Money Market Rates

	O'Night	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	6	6 1/4	6 1/4
Steering CDs	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	6	6 1/4	6 1/4
Local Authority Deps	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Discount Market Deps	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Treasury bills (90d)	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
ECU Unbacked	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low	Est/Contd	Open Interest
Long Gilt (Dec '96)	(Dec '96)	100.04	100.07	100.01	85091
German Bund (Dec '96)	(Dec '96)	98.99	99.07	98.96	185539
Italian BTP (Dec '96)	(Dec '96)	92.27	92.37	92.26	148527
Italian Bond (Dec '96)	(Dec '96)	92.95	92.98	92.92	74833
3M Sterling (Dec '96)	(Dec '96)	94.55	94.63	94.58	17063
3M Euroyen (Mar '97)	(Mar '97)	93.87	93.93	93.83	13911
3M Euroyen (Jun '97)	(Jun '97)	93.84	93.84	93.74	3
3M Euroyen (Sep '97)	(Sep '97)	93.87	93.87	93.84	25645
3M Euroyen (Dec '97)	(Dec '97)	93.88	93.88	93.77	2163
3M Euroyen (Mar '98)	(Mar '98)	93.92	93.92	93.80	14562
3M Euroyen (Jun '98)	(Jun '98)	93.95	93.95	93.85	13945
3M Euroyen (Sep '98)	(Sep '98)	93.99	93.99	93.85	6393
3M Euroyen (Dec '98)	(Dec '98)	93.93	93.97	93.80	46938
3M Euroyen (Mar '99)	(Mar '99)	93.93	93.93	93.80	14763
3M Euroyen (Jun '99)	(Jun '99)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '99)	(Sep '99)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '99)	(Dec '99)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '00)	(Mar '00)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '00)	(Jun '00)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '00)	(Sep '00)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '00)	(Dec '00)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '01)	(Mar '01)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '01)	(Jun '01)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '01)	(Sep '01)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '01)	(Dec '01)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '02)	(Mar '02)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '02)	(Jun '02)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '02)	(Sep '02)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '02)	(Dec '02)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '03)	(Mar '03)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '03)	(Jun '03)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '03)	(Sep '03)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '03)	(Dec '03)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '04)	(Mar '04)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '04)	(Jun '04)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '04)	(Sep '04)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '04)	(Dec '04)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '05)	(Mar '05)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '05)	(Jun '05)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '05)	(Sep '05)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '05)	(Dec '05)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '06)	(Mar '06)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '06)	(Jun '06)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '06)	(Sep '06)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '06)	(Dec '06)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '07)	(Mar '07)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '07)	(Jun '07)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '07)	(Sep '07)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '07)	(Dec '07)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '08)	(Mar '08)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '08)	(Jun '08)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '08)	(Sep '08)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '08)	(Dec '08)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '09)	(Mar '09)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '09)	(Jun '09)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '09)	(Sep '09)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '09)	(Dec '09)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '10)	(Mar '10)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '10)	(Jun '10)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '10)	(Sep '10)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '10)	(Dec '10)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '11)	(Mar '11)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '11)	(Jun '11)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '11)	(Sep '11)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '11)	(Dec '11)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '12)	(Mar '12)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '12)	(Jun '12)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '12)	(Sep '12)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '12)	(Dec '12)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '13)	(Mar '13)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '13)	(Jun '13)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '13)	(Sep '13)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '13)	(Dec '13)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '14)	(Mar '14)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '14)	(Jun '14)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '14)	(Sep '14)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '14)	(Dec '14)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '15)	(Mar '15)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '15)	(Jun '15)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '15)	(Sep '15)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '15)	(Dec '15)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '16)	(Mar '16)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '16)	(Jun '16)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '16)	(Sep '16)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '16)	(Dec '16)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '17)	(Mar '17)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '17)	(Jun '17)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '17)	(Sep '17)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '17)	(Dec '17)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '18)	(Mar '18)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '18)	(Jun '18)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '18)	(Sep '18)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '18)	(Dec '18)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '19)	(Mar '19)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '19)	(Jun '19)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '19)	(Sep '19)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '19)	(Dec '19)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '20)	(Mar '20)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '20)	(Jun '20)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '20)	(Sep '20)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '20)	(Dec '20)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '21)	(Mar '21)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '21)	(Jun '21)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '21)	(Sep '21)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '21)	(Dec '21)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '22)	(Mar '22)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '22)	(Jun '22)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '22)	(Sep '22)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '22)	(Dec '22)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '23)	(Mar '23)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '23)	(Jun '23)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '23)	(Sep '23)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '23)	(Dec '23)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '24)	(Mar '24)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '24)	(Jun '24)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '24)	(Sep '24)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '24)	(Dec '24)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '25)	(Mar '25)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '25)	(Jun '25)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '25)	(Sep '25)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '25)	(Dec '25)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '26)	(Mar '26)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '26)	(Jun '26)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '26)	(Sep '26)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '26)	(Dec '26)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '27)	(Mar '27)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '27)	(Jun '27)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '27)	(Sep '27)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '27)	(Dec '27)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '28)	(Mar '28)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '28)	(Jun '28)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '28)	(Sep '28)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '28)	(Dec '28)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '29)	(Mar '29)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '29)	(Jun '29)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '29)	(Sep '29)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '29)	(Dec '29)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '30)	(Mar '30)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '30)	(Jun '30)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '30)	(Sep '30)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '30)	(Dec '30)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '31)	(Mar '31)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '31)	(Jun '31)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '31)	(Sep '31)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '31)	(Dec '31)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '32)	(Mar '32)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '32)	(Jun '32)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '32)	(Sep '32)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '32)	(Dec '32)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '33)	(Mar '33)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '33)	(Jun '33)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '33)	(Sep '33)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '33)	(Dec '33)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '34)	(Mar '34)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '34)	(Jun '34)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '34)	(Sep '34)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '34)	(Dec '34)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '35)	(Mar '35)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '35)	(Jun '35)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '35)	(Sep '35)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '35)	(Dec '35)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '36)	(Mar '36)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '36)	(Jun '36)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '36)	(Sep '36)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '36)	(Dec '36)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '37)	(Mar '37)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '37)	(Jun '37)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '37)	(Sep '37)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '37)	(Dec '37)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '38)	(Mar '38)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '38)	(Jun '38)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '38)	(Sep '38)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '38)	(Dec '38)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '39)	(Mar '39)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '39)	(Jun '39)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '39)	(Sep '39)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '39)	(Dec '39)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '40)	(Mar '40)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '40)	(Jun '40)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '40)	(Sep '40)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '40)	(Dec '40)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '41)	(Mar '41)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '41)	(Jun '41)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Sep '41)	(Sep '41)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Dec '41)	(Dec '41)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Mar '42)	(Mar '42)	93.93	93.93	93.80	3571
3M Euroyen (Jun '42)	(Jun '42)	93.93	93.93	93.80	

Liffe FTSE Index Option

Settlement price: 3987.00	closing offer price				Call/Put
Series	3900	3950	4000	4050	Total/week
Oct	12/7	70/16	36/33	14/85	..
Nov	137/23	99/35	68/54	42/81	..
Dec	170/41	131/55	99/75	72/100	..
Jan	163/55	150/72	117/90	91/115	..

Commodities

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange				Stocks	
S/price	Cont'd	3 mths	Volume	LINE	chg
Aluminum 850225-25	159-45	57564	163075		
Aluminum Alloy		16102		16370	150
Copper 850214-14	162-14	57569	170000		569
Lead 850212-12	160-12	15033	197350		150
Nickel 850211-11	161-11	15039	40000		160
Th 850210-10	582-10	13381	10000		133
Zn 850212-12	106-12	5557	589500		1060
Settlements close				Stocks volume at 1:00 p.m.	
Settlements open	12:0424	12:5225	Volume at 1:00 p.m. 1,028,910		

PRECIOUS METALS					
per oz. fix	t	Colins	5	5	
Gold 850210-10	350.30	24450	395	253	Kingsdons 371.082 237.044
Palladium 15375	7550	18125-05	150	127	5005 5005
Platinum 16475	7000	18125-05	150	127	5005 5005
Spot 16475	7000	18125-05	150	127	5005 5005
Gold 850210-10	350.30	24450	395	253	Kingsdons 371.082 237.044

AGRICULTURAL

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Gluten	
LOC	Chromo	LOC	Shorro	LOC	Chromo	LOC	Chromo	ATA	Glt100kg
Rep	973	Rep	1503	Rep	1020	Rep	3500	Rep	23
Val	978	Val	1487	Val	1016	Val	3496	Val	25
Med	982	Med	1487	Med	1020	Med	3500	Med	23
Min	982	Min	1487	Min	1020	Min	3500	Min	23
Max	982	Max	1487	Max	1020	Max	3500	Max	23
Std	4,344	Std	3,918	Std	148	Std	67	Std	75
White Sugar		Freight		Wheat		Corn		LSD From	
LOC	Shorro	LOC	Shorro	LOC	Chromo	LOC	Chromo	ATA	Corn
Rep	32250	Rep	195	Rep	93,45	Rep	93,45	Rep	32250
Val	32250	Val	195	Val	93,45	Val	93,45	Val	32250
Med	32250	Med	195	Med	93,45	Med	93,45	Med	32250
Min	32250	Min	195	Min	93,45	Min	93,45	Min	32250
Max	32250	Max	195	Max	93,45	Max	93,45	Max	32250
Std	32250	Std	195	Std	93,45	Std	93,45	Std	32250

Other Soils (Agricultural)		
Oct	Mean 81.5°	54mm

[illegible]

COMMODITY INDICES

"G242 Indices	Base date	Spot	5-day	10-day	% 10-day	% 10-day	% 10-day
Index	1970=100	252.22	-0.7	203.50	+0.4	191.06	-0.33
Agricultural	1970=100	250.48	-0.51	201.75	+1.5	195.63	-0.56
Energy	1983=100	7.721	-0.55	7.131	+2.7	58.23	-2.87
Industrial Metals	1977=100	155.7	-1.89	100.32	+0.43	100.08	-0.250
Livestock	1970=100	19.75	+1.91	16.71	+7.90	16.59	+0.7
Precious Metals	1970=100	47.723	-0.62	48.900	-2.5	45.935	-2.25

Source: Refinitiv. Sachs & Co. "G242 is a barometer and barometer of Global. Sachs & Co. 12-28-20 30 Sept 2020

100 Largest Insurance Funds

[illegible]

Elisabeth Murdoch assumes control at BSkyB

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of media baron Rupert Murdoch, is to take charge of all programming at BSkyB, her father's pay-TV giant, it emerged last night. The extension of her position at Sky will bring her a step closer to the mantle of her father's global empire.

Ms Murdoch, 28, joined BSkyB earlier this year, as general manager, broadcasting. She is to continue to oversee key operational aspects of the company's business, including its crucial subscription management centres in Scotland. But effective immediately, she will also oversee BSkyB's growing programming division.

The move follows confirmation last month that her brother Lachlan would become managing director of Mr Murdoch's Australian company, News Ltd., and will fuel speculation that he is grooming one or the other of the two children to take over from him when he retires.

Ms Murdoch, notoriously press-shy, began her television career in the US, with her father's company, Fox. She bought and then ran two US local television stations, before coming to Britain to work for BSkyB.

Her appointment coincides with a restructuring of the company's programming operations. A new head of programming, James Baker, was also named yesterday, while Les Sampson, formerly programme manager at the Nine Network in Australia, is to become Controller of Sky Channels.

Tim Riordan, director of broadcasting, remains in his position. The changes were made necessary by the departure of David Elstein, formerly head of programmes, who is now chief executive of Channel 5 Broadcasting, backers of the new fifth terrestrial television service.

His direct replacement, Mr Baker, joins from Nickelodeon, the joint venture children's channel owned by BSkyB and Viacom, the US media giant. Mr Baker is expected to remain on the Nickelodeon board. Tensions have been growing between Viacom and BSkyB ever since Sky announced it would carry Mr Murdoch's Fox Kids, a competitor to Nickelodeon, in the UK market.



Her apparent: Elisabeth Murdoch takes on new brief

Cash-rich investors help push Footsie nearer 4,000 mark

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

The stock market finished at an all-time closing high last night as new figures from purchasing managers confirmed the strength of the recovery in industry.

The FTSE 100 index put on 38.5 points to close at 3,992.2, and analysts predicted it could soon push through the 4,000 level if optimism about the economy continued to dominate investors' moods.

Cash-rich institutions appear to be ignoring predictions from PDM, the fund managers, of a looming stock market crash comparable with or worse than 1987, and instead are stepping up their share purchases.

The close was only 1.9 points below the best ever intra-day

Clarke looks back on the bad old days

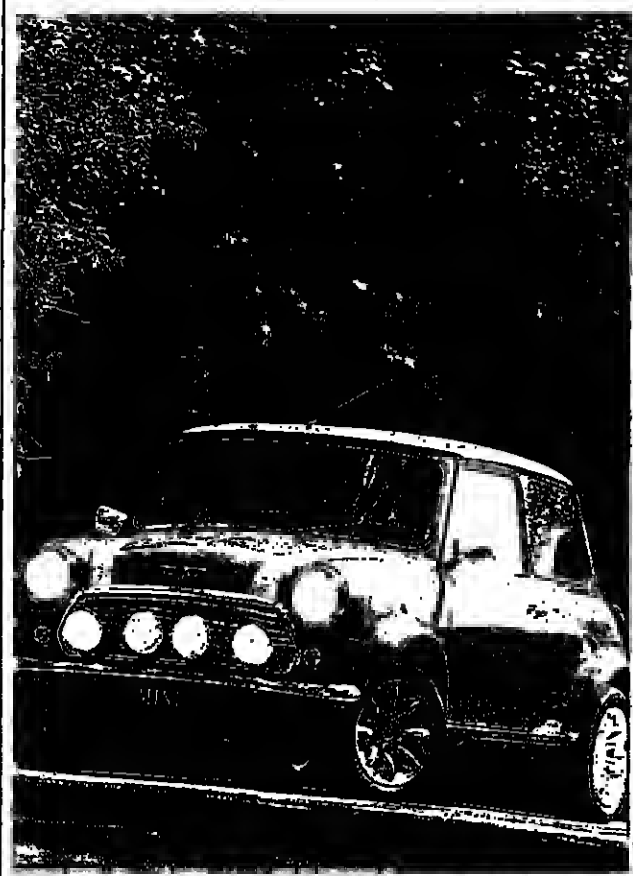
DIANE COYLE
Washington

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday used the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Denis Healey, the last Labour Chancellor, turning to the International Monetary Fund for an emergency loan to claim that the British economy had broken the mould.

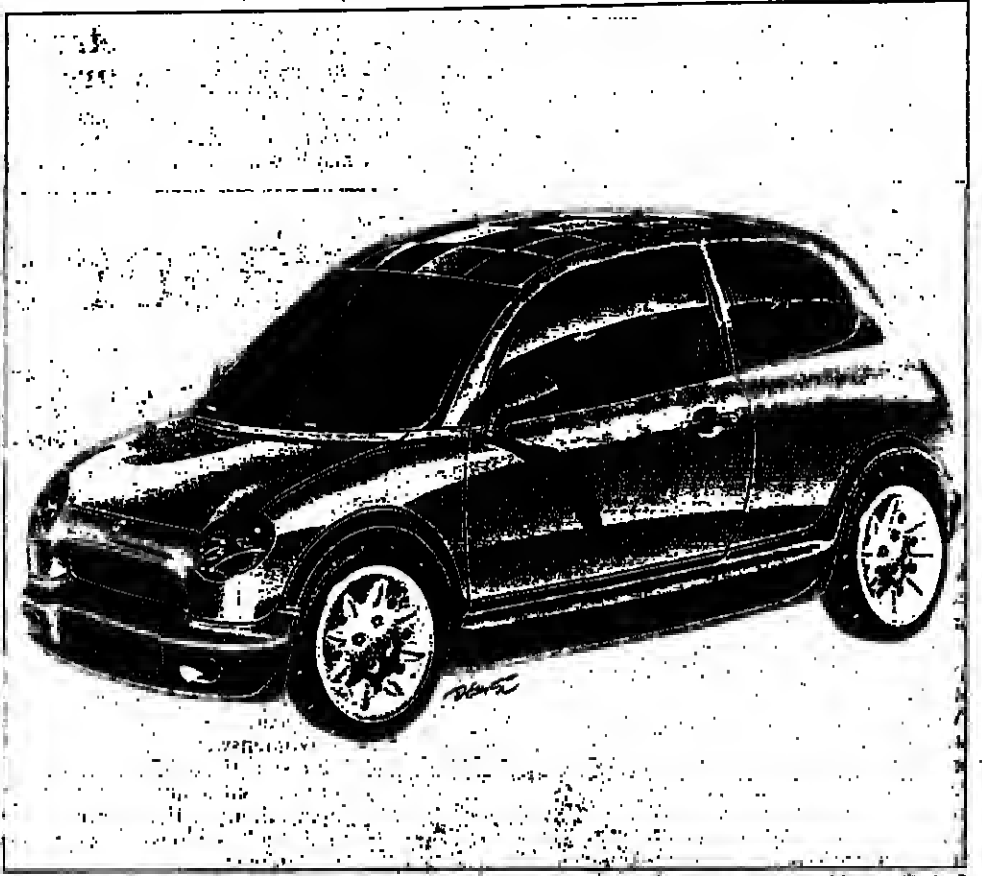
He contrasted the current low inflation environment with the "beer and sandwiches" incomes policy of the late 1970s. On the day that the latest survey pointed to a strong pick-up in activity in prices and manufacturing, Mr Clarke asserted that British industry was shedding its inflationary psychology, with companies less inclined to take the easy route to giving in to wage demands.

He promised to stay tough on inflation and tough on public borrowing. In its new economic forecast published last week, the IMF warned that a correction was needed in the government's borrowing requirement to get it back on the right track.

Motor industry: Engines to come from new \$500m BMW/Chrysler plant in South America



Old and new: The 1997 Mini, left, and an artist's impression of how the reborn Mini will look



Artist's impression: Rolf Schep/Delux

Mini shapes up for the 21st century

MICHAEL HARRISON

The Mini, the biggest-selling British car and the model that launched a thousand imitators, is to be reborn. Rover announced yesterday that it is to spend £400m to develop a new Mini for the new millennium.

The new model will be built at the Longbridge plant in Birmingham, its "spiritual home" for nearly 40 years, and will safeguard or create an estimated 8,000 jobs directly and indirectly.

Artists' impressions suggest that the new car will be much sleeker and rounder than its predecessor. A spokesman maintained, however: "It will be a completely new car but it will be unmistakably a Mini."

The Mini was designed by Sir Alec Issigonis and first appeared in 1959. It quickly became the icon of 1960s fashion, featuring in the film *The Italian Job* and went on to reach sales of five and a quarter million.

Production of the latest version - re-engineered and back in its most memorable incarnation - the Mini Cooper - is running at about 20,000 a year. But Rover, now under the ownership of BMW of Germany, said production of the new Mini was likely to reach at least 100,000 a year. Output could be even higher, depending on when Rover re-enters the US market.

Nissan to create jobs in North-east

Nissan is to create a further 150 jobs at its car plant in Sunderland following the decision to build new car - a estate version of the Primera - in the North-east.

However, the project lined up for 1998 came as almost an anti-climax after some advance media speculation that the firm was poised to build a third model at Sunderland, providing 1,000 new jobs.

The company, already employing more than 4,000 at Sunderland, said the new estate car, taking over from a model imported from Japan, would result from £70m of investment. The

output was forecast to be 20,000 a year. It stressed the decision that Sunderland was set to produce the five-seater, styled at their European design centre at Munich, was further confirmation of the plant as "a centre of manufacturing excellence".

Sainsbury moves into financial services Channel 5 seeks satellite space



David Sainsbury: Wants to shift focus on to quality

NIGEL COPE
Sainsbury's is gearing up to launch a series of initiatives between now and Christmas in an attempt to claw back market share lost to rivals such as Tesco.

A key part of the plans will be a move into financial services which is likely to include a Sainsbury's "bank account", similar to the ClubCard Plus scheme launched by Tesco earlier this year.

Other plans include a decision to fight the market share battle on Sainsbury's strengths such as quality, choice and customer service while shifting attention away from price.

The initiatives are unlikely to win much support in the City as Tesco has already moved into financial services and price has proven to be a key weapon in the supermarket store wars.

New market share figures are expected from research group AGB today. They are likely to show that Sainsbury's is still failing to narrow the gap between itself and Tesco.

The last released figures for the four weeks to 25 August showed Tesco's share of the

more narrow definition of the grocery market had risen to 21.4 per cent. Sainsbury's share had dipped to 18.6 per cent.

Sainsbury's first move into financial services is unlikely to be anything more advanced than Tesco's ClubCard Plus scheme which is essentially a budget account offering beneficial interest rates.

Sainsbury's scheme will operate separately from its Reward loyalty card launched in June. Like Tesco, it will not run the accounts but will co-operate with a major clearing bank. Sainsbury's takes the view that

banks are unpopular and that supermarket groups enjoy greater trust among their customers. Other financial services, such as the provision of loans and overdrafts, are expected in the longer term.

Tony MacNeary, of NatWest Security, said Sainsbury's would probably be accused of copying Tesco's move into financial services. "It is still proving a struggle for them to differentiate themselves from the rest of the sector," he said.

Frank Davidson, of James Capel, is also unconvinced. "I don't see Sainsbury's breaking

Channel 5 seeks satellite space

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Channel 5 Broadcasting is planning to bid for newly available space on the Astra 1A satellite, spending up to £6m a year to extend the coverage of Britain's last "free" terrestrial TV service. If successful, Channel 5 could reach an additional 1 million homes in the UK.

But the company, owned by Pearson and United News & Media, will have to offer a competitive premium to win the satellite lease, in the face of fierce competition from other broadcasters.

The lease for the satellite transponder is being offered by Nethold, the Dutch-based broadcaster, which is moving one of its channels to a competing satellite service, Intelsat.

According to sources close to Channel 5, BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's pay-TV giant, will "assist" in securing the lease, using its long-standing ties with Astra, the leading European satellite system. BSkyB, a major Astra client, uses the satellite to transmit its own pay-TV channels in the UK.

BSkyB and Channel 5 are negotiating over-closer ties, which are expected to include joint programme acquisition and cross promotion. The co-oper-

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100			Dow Jones			Nikkei			
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)
FTSE 100	3992.20	+38.50	+1.0	3992.20	3632.30	3,900	7,900	+100	+1.3
FTSE 250	4489.80	+18.70	+0.4	4588.60	4015.30	3,400	7,000	+100	+1.4
FTSE 350	1996.60	+16.80	+0.9	1996.60	1616.80	3,800	7,200	+100	+1.4
FT Small Cap	2171.27	+4.17	+0.2	2244.36	1954.06	3,12	6,500	+100	+1.5
FT All Share	1960.67	+15.67	+0.8	1960.67	1791.95	3,75	6,800	+100	+1.5
New York	5870.61	+11.56	+0.2	5894.74	5032.94	2,17	11,000	+100	+0.9
Tokyo	21462.97	-53.43	-0.4	22666.80	19734.70	0,741	15,000	+100	+0.7
Hong Kong	11921.22	+18.79	+0.2	11921.22	10204.87	3,401	10,000	+100	+1.0
Frankfurt	2655.73	+3.88	+0.1	2666.55	2253.35	1,741	8,000	+100	+1.3

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling			UK medium gilt			US long bond			
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Index	1 Month	1 Year	Index	10 Year	30 Year	10 Year
UK	5.81	6.25	7.59	8.00	7.74	8.13	100	100	4.3
US	5.38	5.91	6.58	6.13	6.88	6.46	100	100	4.3
Japan	0.38	0.68	2.63	2.60	-	-	100	100	4.3
Germany	3.05	3.19	6.05	6.56	6.86	-	100	100	4.3

CURRENCIES									
Pound			Dollar			Euro			
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
\$ (London)	1.5646	+0.12c	1.5832	£ (London)	0.6301	-0.05	0.6326	€ (London)	1.3610
\$ (New York)	1.5630	unch	1.5807	£ (New York)	0.6308	unch	0.6316	€ (New York)	1.3610
DM (London)	2.3872	+0.26d	2.2750	DM (London)	1.6258	+0.05d	1.4883	DM (New York)	1.6258
¥ (London)	174.12	+0.008	160.126	¥ (London)	111.25	-0.08	101.305	¥ (New York)	111.25
₹ (London)	87.0	unch	85.2	₹ (London)	57.5	unch	53.8	₹ (New York)	57.5

Media, will have to offer a competitive premium to win the satellite lease, in the face of fiercer competition from other broadcasters.

The lease for the satellite transponder is being offered by Nethel, the Dutch-based broadcaster, which is moving one of its channels to a competing satellite service, Intelsat.

According to sources close to Channel 5, BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's pay-TV giant, will "assist" in securing the lease, using its long-standing ties with Astra, the leading European satellite system. BSkyB, a major Astra client, uses the satellite to transmit its own pay-TV channels in the UK.

BSkyB and Channel 5 are negotiating ever-closer ties, which are expected to include joint programme acquisition and cross promotion. The co-oper-

tional transmission.

Mr Elstein has set a priority on securing the widest possible coverage for the new Channel 5, scheduled for launch early in 1997. A successful lobbying campaign recently led to the release of an additional frequency for the transmission of the channel taking the total to 80 per cent from just over 70 per cent.

With satellite, it is estimated that an additional 1m homes will receive the signal in areas where the conventional signal is not available. In addition, Channel 5 hopes to encourage cable operators to carry the service, particularly in the south of England; where through-the-air television reception will be patchy.

It is understood that Travel, the UK cable channel, and Flentech, the cable and satellite packager, are also interested in bidding for the Nethel transponder.

سكزا من الأصل



Why a Clarke boom is bad for the stock market

Just 7.8 points to go. Bears of the stock market, which include this column, are having to eat their words once more as the FTSE 100 index powers to within a whisker of the 4,000 mark. It is easy to see why this is happening. As yesterday's buoyant Purchasing Managers Index confirmed beyond any doubt, we now seem to be in the throws of a fully fledged pre-election boom. And as Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor, was only too keen to stress at the IMF meeting in Washington yesterday, there appears nothing on the horizon to cloud this glorious picture of non-inflationary growth.

Mr Clarke, naturally, cites 17 years of Conservative Party reform – privatisation, deregulation, and flexible labour markets – as the underlying cause of this success. Despite his location, however, Mr Clarke is a man speaking primarily to his electorate. The international bankers and finance ministers who were his audience yesterday might beg to differ just a little from this analysis. On most conventional measures, the UK economy is indeed performing exceptionally well right now, but this has as much to do with external factors, luck and some good old-fashioned pump priming ahead of the election as anything else.

Inflation is in abeyance not just in the UK, but almost everywhere that counts. Also buoyed by a man with an election to win, the US economy too is booming. Even on the Continent growth seems to be picking up. Britain's economic performance may look a

bit better than elsewhere, but this is hardly evidence of an economic miracle in the making.

By contrast, there is growing evidence of the reverse, that what we are witnessing here are the beginnings of a boom that, if it is not going to end in quite the same calamitous bust of the past, might well leave us all with some kind of mild hangover. The signs of this are all over the place but they are to be found in their most compelling form in the housing market – which if you live in certain parts of London is most definitely booming again – and, yes, in shares themselves, which are showing investment bubble-like characteristics.

Mr Clarke is probably right to insist that this is no repeat of the Lawson boom. A cautious Budget on November 26 will underline the differences. But nor is the outlook quite as cloudless as he claims. Inflation will be rising again, possibly quite sharply, within a year. Meanwhile, it seems highly unlikely that the boom in corporate profits – driven in part by cost cutting and low wage increases – can continue for much longer. A crash or major correction? Perhaps, perhaps not. But a prolonged bear market? All too possible.

IMF rethinks its future

Like most annual meetings, the IMF's gathering in Washington presents delegates with an agenda that is supposed to be pretty

much sealed up well before they get their chance to vote on it. The achievements of this year's meeting such as the initiative to reduce the debt burden on small countries have been crafted by officials during the last six months. The real issue for discussion during the active round of cocktail parties is the shape the IMF and other international institutions will need to take as the global balance of economic power shifts.

It is now plain that there are some big new kids on the block. Up and coming countries such as Korea, because of its wealth, and China, because of its size, will without doubt become important economic powers. The question is how the Fund needs to evolve to recognise these new economic forces on the world stage.

The first step has been taken. The "new arrangements to borrow", the emergency source of funds created in response to the Mexican crisis, incorporates some of the new powers such as Korea, Malaysia and Singapore.

The next steps are under way, with the IMF's appeal to members for an increase in quotas. These are the member countries' shareholdings in the Fund. The IMF would like to use a quota increase to double its capital in a way that reflects countries' relative importance in the world economy.

Negotiations will go ahead in the hope that proposals can be put to a vote next year. But there are big question marks. One is what it will mean for the industrial countries. In par-

ticular, will the single currency mean the need for a single European voice at the IMF and what will that imply for Britain if it stays out?

Although there is no immediate threat to the UK's strong voice in the organisation, it looks sure to diminish over time – hence Mr Clarke's attempt to get some of his free market principles written into the IMF's list of objectives. More important, there is the issue of how countries with very different political cultures can be incorporated in a system of decision making that has always been based on a shared model of democracy. So far, the biggest difference in world view the institution has had to accommodate has been between that of the Germans and the Americans. But as the shadow hanging over next year's meeting in Hong Kong shows, inviting China and others to step into the boardroom could be fraught with difficulty.

Can TV's newcomers make money?

Hardly any broadcasters are making money out of niche pay-TV channels in the UK. So why are so many piling in? Granada Sky Broadcasting was launched yesterday with seven new services. The BBC, in league with Fleetech, wants to add eight by next summer, including arts, entertainment, documentaries, music and the like. Others lie waiting in the wings. Do we really want all these television ser-

vices? More to the point, can they achieve any kind of commercial viability? Can there, for instance, really be a market for three lifestyle channels – Daily Mail TV's lifestyle channel, UK Living (also lifestyle), and Granada Life (you guessed it, more lifestyle)?

There are, however, reasons for investing in pay-TV now, even if the pickings seem thin. First, when the digital revolution strikes, there will be huge numbers of channels vying for our attention. Quality, recognised brand names and uniqueness may be the best selling points.

But how to stand out among all the audiovisual clutter? One way is to launch now, in the relatively uncrowded world of analogue, where maybe 40 channels are seeking eyeballs. Thereafter, the audiences may stick by when the digital era dawns.

The argument is particularly true for the BBC. The country's largest archive of programmes and its world-beating brand make it potentially a very strong player. Certainly Fleetech understands the appeal, and is willing to spend as much as £200m to develop the new pay-TV services.

All these channels can expect, for now, are the crumbs from the growing table at which Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB feasts. These new channels will wither on the vine if BSkyB's near-monopoly in analogue pay-TV is not restrained from migrating into the digital world. By the same token, they offer the prospect of development of a real second force in pay-TV to counterbalance the monopoly power of BSkyB.

House of Fraser announces overhaul after £13.6m loss

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

John Coleman, new chief executive of House of Fraser, launched a searing attack on his predecessors at the department store chain yesterday.

Announcing a £50m restructuring programme, he blamed poor customer service, inadequate market knowledge, weak buying and poor internal systems for the company's collapse to a £13.6m loss in the half-year to July.

Between five and 10 of the company's 50 stores face the axe as a result of a strategic review of the group, putting more than 1,000 of House of Fraser's 9,500 strong payroll at risk.

House of Fraser's shares

closed 4.5p lower at 158p as the City focused on the size of Mr Coleman's task in rejuvenating the retailer, only three years af-



Brian McGowan. Came out of retirement before the float

ter it came to the market at a price of 180p.

A collapse in sales of the group's "own bought" womenswear, which traditionally attracts a higher gross margin than sales from store concessions, lay behind worse-than-expected losses for the half-year.

Womenswear accounts for almost a third of House of Fraser's sales, and Mr Coleman admitted the company had made serious errors in that department.

Brian McGowan, House of Fraser's chairman, who came out of retirement to head the company just before it floated in 1994, dismissed the suggestion that he should take responsibility for the failings highlighted by Mr Coleman.

"It is a question of the role

of the non-executive chairman", Mr McGowan, who made his reputation at the Williams industrial group, said.

"He is not there to be operational, not even to create a strategy. He is there to review the effectiveness of that strategy and the ability of the executives to carry it out. If he believes they are not up to it, or there is a flaw in the strategy, then it is his responsibility to change the management. That is what I did."

Analysts questioned whether Mr Coleman had the necessary track record to turn round House of Fraser, which has seen its profits fall since flotation, has been losing market share to Debenhams and John Lewis, faces cash outflows and rising debts and has a host of operational problems to resolve.

Mr Coleman admitted that prior to his strategic review, the company, whose portfolio of stores includes such famous retailing names as DH Evans, Bakers and Rackhams, knew little about its customers, had unacceptably high staff turnover in key areas such as the buying office and suffered from poor planning which had led to bad stock control and discounts to clear badly received lines.

During the half-year under review, sales were up marginally to £334.7m (£322.6m). A trading loss of £2.5m (loss of £1.8m) was compounded by a £6.7m one-off property write-off and higher interest payable of £4.4m (£3.8m) to leave a pre-tax loss of £13.6m compared with last year's £4.3m shortfall.

Investment column, page 21



A searing attack: John Coleman, new chief executive, blamed predecessors for collapse

Doubts over IMF meeting in China

DIANE COYLE
and HAMISH McRAE
Washington

A shadow hangs over the plans of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to hold next year's annual meeting in Hong Kong, shortly after its reversion to Chinese rule. This is the result of rising concern about the imprisonment of a Chinese member of the IMF staff, Mr Yang Hong, who was abducted while on a Fund mission to China earlier this year. The staff association of the

Fund, charged to examine the legal position of Mr Hong's case, wrote to all IMF governors on 27 September expressing concern about his treatment by the Chinese authorities. The letter has not been disclosed to the public for fear of damaging Mr Hong's position and the authors will not discuss it. It is understood that it did not specifically call for the location of the meetings to be moved, and no formal contingency planning to do so has yet begun.

Top Fund and Bank officials have decided to try other

avenues before considering changing the location of the meeting. But a cancellation would be an embarrassing blow to the Chinese as the hand-over of power in July 1997 draws closer. However, some senior staff members of the Fund believe it will be politically very difficult to hold the meetings in Hong Kong, which by next September will have reverted to Chinese control, if Mr Hong has not been released.

The Bank and Fund were invited jointly to Hong Kong by the Chinese and British authori-

ties. Fund staff are particularly perturbed about the circumstances of Mr Hong's abduction, as he was not originally part of the mission to China, which was not his area of responsibility, but was added at the request of the Chinese authorities.

IMF and World Bank staff do not have formal diplomatic status, but are normally treated as diplomats when on overseas missions and so would normally be immune from such interference. Representations by the IMF to secure Mr Hong's release have so far been unsuccessful.

Oftel warned of need to keep BT on leash

MICHAEL HARRISON

Consumer groups have warned Oftel, the telecommunications industry regulator, that it may need to keep retail price controls in place on British Telecom well into the next century, it emerged last night.

In July Oftel pledged that the new price controls, which take effect next August and run for four years, will be the "last retail price controls". They will cut the average domestic bill by £30 a year. Oftel said competition would replace the need for a retail price control mechanism.

But in a letter to Oftel, published yesterday, leading consumer organisations said this raised a "serious issue of principle", adding that they could not share Oftel's confidence that this should be the last set of price controls.

The new price formula will cover just 26 per cent of BT's revenues but 80 per cent of its residential customer market, mainly lower users.

But the letter, signed by five members of the Oftel consumer panel, urges the Director General of Telecommunications, Don Cruickshank, to undertake a comprehensive review of the telecoms market in 2000 – the year before the new price formula expires – to establish how much price competition

had developed. "We are convinced that an exercise along these lines to analyse and evaluate emerging market forces will be essential before any conclusions can be reached as to what, if any, controls will be needed after 2001," it said.

Members of the consumer panel include John Hughes, chairman of the National Consumer Council's economic policy committee, and Stephen Locke, director of research and policy at the Consumers' Association.

Their letter quotes Oftel's conclusions that BT remains "a very powerful dominant player in most segments of the UK telecoms market" and that "it is impossible to predict exactly how the UK telecoms market will develop in the future and how competitive forces will shape it".

Oftel's deputy director general, Anna Walker, said that while it believed this would be the last set of price controls, it did not mean there would be no further need for regulation.

She said: "We will not wait for 1999-2000 before reassessing the market situation. Indeed, preliminary work on a review of effective competition in telecommunications will begin this autumn and will include a thorough assessment of the competitive position of BT in all its markets."

IN BRIEF

• Peter Lennon, 54, and Roger Charlesworth, 50, were jailed for 21 and 18 months respectively after pleading guilty at the Inner London Crown Court, Newington Causeway, to inducing deposits from the public on the basis of false and misleading statements and falsifying documents. A third man, Paul Hyans, 33, received a sentence of 200 hours of community service. The charges were brought after an investigation by the Bank of England into advertisements in national newspapers for a product called the Heritage Bond. The advertisements prompted over 300 enquiries but because the Bank intervened early only six deposits had been received, with a total value of £39,000.

• BT has secured a £147m eight-year contract to install a customised telecommunications network for Lloyds TSB. The network will link all of the bank's 1,700 sites in Britain and will be rolled out over the next three years.

• September new passenger car sales in Japan rose 8.8 per cent year-on-year to 349,460 after increasing 1.4 per cent in August, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association said. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, increased 8.4 per cent to 511,911 units after falling in August. Truck sales rose 7.5 per cent.

• LucasVarity is buying Boeing Co's cargo system business Boeing Georgia Inc for an undisclosed sum. As part of the agreement, Lucas Aerospace will achieve increased annual sales of approximately £60m and obtain rights to make, sell and distribute Boeing 747, 767 and 777 cargo systems spares directly.

• Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft manufacturer, has landed a \$400m order for eight short-range A320 and A321 jets from the Singapore Aircraft Leasing Enterprise, Airbus, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, added that the Sale had taken out options on a further 12 aircraft.

• Vodafone added over 185,000 net new world-wide subscribers during the third calendar quarter of 1996. Analysts said the figures demonstrated the company had maintained its UK market share, kept pace with its overseas growth plans and successfully moved its analogue customers over to digital systems. The group now has a world-wide subscriber base approaching 3,500,000. In the UK, the subscriber base at the end of September was more than 2,655,000.

• Bluebird Toys yesterday purchased for cancellation 3 million of its ordinary shares, representing 6.59 per cent of its issued share capital, at a price of 149.5p each.

• German industrial output rose a seasonally adjusted 0.8 per cent in August from July and was up 0.7 per cent from a year earlier, after adjustment for the number of working days, the economics ministry said.

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Cards

market report / shares

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FT-SE 350
1986.6 +16.8

SEAQ VOLUME
709.6m shares,
40,432 bargains

Gilt Index
93.99 +0.26

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Share price, pence



Footsie has 4,000 mark within its sights once again

MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER



A late buying surge pushed the Footsie to another record closing high and to within a whisker of the 4,000 mark, helped by strong gilts and futures markets and benign economic data from the US.

The index of leading shares closed at 3992.2, up 38.5, as traders took their cue from a downbeat report from US purchasing managers that seemed to vindicate the Federal Reserve's recent decision to leave interest rates unaltered.

Volumes were nothing special, but many traders are convinced the 4,000 mark will be broken this week as cash-rich institutions seek to invest their money somewhere.

Imperial Tobacco could not have picked a better day to begin its demerged life outside the Hanson group.

The shares had been expected to open at around 375p-380p, but they celebrated their debut in the blue-chip index by

closing at 393.5p, above their grey-market price last week. A hefty 14 million shares changed hands.

The strong showing from Imperial lifted shares in BAT Industries, which finished 6p better at 431.5p. Hanson, short of both Imperial and Millennium, the Grimsby-based but New York-quoted chemicals business, fared less well, dipping 0.75p to 94.5p.

Vickers had an eventful session. The shares soared to 297.5p in early exchanges amid rumours that BMW was about to buy its Rolls-Royce luxury cars unit.

In the event BMW issued a statement saying its Rover division and Chrysler had formed a 50-50 joint venture to invest \$500m in a new engine plant in South America. Vickers fell back sharply to close just 5p better at 285.5p.

Other engineering and defence-related stocks were also

in demand, with Smiths Industries up 16p to 808.5p and TI Group 11p to the good at 593.5p while GKN added another 27.5p to close at 1149p on further consideration of its German helicopter deal.

But the biggest winner in the sector was Cobham, whose shares soared 37p to 669.5p in late trading on news that the Ministry of Defence had selected its FRS joint venture as the preferred bidder for a 15-year programme worth more than £400m to provide aircraft and personnel for a new defence helicopter flying school.

FRS is an equal joint venture between FR Aviation, a wholly owned unit of Cobham, Bris-

tow Helicopters and Serco. They will supply 38 Eurocopter AS350BA Squirrel single-engine and nine Bell 412 twin-engine helicopters. Serco's shares moved 6.5p higher to 615p.

Still in the skies, hopes that British Airways' proposed alliance with American Airlines would get regulatory approval gave the shares wings and they rose 14.5p to 556.5p.

There was plenty of buying ahead of companies reporting today. Bank of Scotland caught the eye, advancing 8p to 255.5p ahead of this morning's interim results. Pre-tax profits should come in around £300m versus £262m.

Elsewhere in financials, shares in National Westminster Bank gained 13p to 692p after ABN Amro Hoare Govett issued a buy note citing domestic cost-cutting measures and last month's debt securitisation.

Plant hire group Hiredup Staart saw further buying ahead of its interim results today. NetWest is looking for pre-tax profits of £15.0m versus £19.7m last time and rates the shares, up 5p to 135.5p, a buy for an eventual recovery in UK demand.

Further proof that there is no argument with a wall of money came yesterday when highly-rated pubs group JD Wetherspoon hit a record high on renewed American buying interest. One large US fund, Janus, now speaks for almost 20 per cent of the shares which added another 59p to 1109p. Bid talk has also resurfaced. Following last week's £96m acquisition of the Tom Cob-

leigh pubs chain by the revamped Rank Organisation, some investors feel it is only a matter of time before Wetherspoon loses its independence.

In chemicals, Courtaulds was weak as SBC Warburg changed its recommendation to hold from buy after the stock breached the broker's 480p price target. The shares fell 2.5p to 478.5p.

Job cuts and big losses at department store group House of Fraser sent the shares tumbling 4.5p to 158p. But the real day of the day was that old stockpicks' favourite, Pan Andean Resources. The shares collapsed by 74.5p to 49.5p on news of a drilling report that showed a potential oil well in Bolivia are said to have got their fingers burnt. Last night Pan Andean played down the prospects of launching a rights issue to fund the rest of the drilling programme.

Shares in Park Food, the Christmas/january group owned by the Everton football chairman, Peter Johnson, fell to a four-year low.

Smart Marks, who tried to buy Park earlier this year, has been removed from the board of marketing services group Handling Solutions, a Park subsidiary.

Phobos Mr Marks to buy back HSL, his old company, will not now proceed. Park ended 6p off at 62.5p.

Visual Action Holdings, a film production services group, is paying £8.5m for S&S, a Chicago-based hirer of audio-visual equipment.

To fund the deal, Visual's third share floating on the stock market earlier this year, Kleinwort Benson is placing 4.1 million new shares in Visual at 210p.

The stock closed 5p up at 225.5p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: 7 Ex rights x Ex-dividend 8 Ex all u United Securities Market a Suspended 9p Parity 10m 18 Paid Shares 2 AM Stock

Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply call 0801 223 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports call 0801 223 335 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
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FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 39547 up 10	11:00 39645 up 305	14:00 39785 up 252
05:00 39547 up 10	12:00 39645 up 305	15:00 39785 up 252
10:00 39670 up 223	13:00 39782 up 250	Close 39822 up 355

Telecommunications

Retailers, Food

Retailers, General

Pharmaceuticals

Printing & Paper

Life Insurance

Government Securities

Alcoholic Beverages

Support Services

Rights Issues

Recent Issues

Distributors

Chemical

Building Materials

Health Care

Gas Distribution

Food Manufacturers

Electronics

Building Construction

Breweries, Pubs & Restaurants

Diversified Industries

Extractive Industries

Engineering Vehicles

International

Banks, Merchant

Banks, Retail

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Retailers, Food

Retailers, General

Pharmaceuticals

Printing & Paper

Life Insurance

Government Securities

Alcoholic Beverages

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Chemical

Building Materials

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Building Construction

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Government Securities

Alcoholic Beverages

Support Services

Rights Issues

Recent Issues

Distributors

Chemical

Building Materials

Health Care

Gas Distribution

Food Manufacturers

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Limelight

1.50 من الأصل

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of two riders on horseback. The rider on the left is wearing a light-colored shirt and a cowboy hat, and is leaning forward. The rider on the right is wearing a dark shirt and a cowboy hat, and is also leaning forward. They are in an outdoor setting with a fence and trees in the background.

Head girl: Pas De Reponse (2nd left) and Freddie Head stride clear from Moonlight Paradise (right) and Ocean Ridge (left) in yesterday's Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket Photograph: Peter Jay

This rule seemed to escape Fallon though as he trotted along at the rear of the field, seemingly in the belief that the filly beneath him had the sort of acceleration to break the earth's gravitational pull. When the pounce to the line arrived

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Speedball
(Salsbury 3.10)
NB: Ink Pot
(Newcastle 2.00)

Dazzle's trainer, Michael Stoute, is not a man to castigate his employees in public, but he had to compose himself before delivering his thoughts on the race. "Maybe she wasn't at her best today because she didn't accelerate," he said, "but I just felt she was left stranded at the back of the field. Knowing that they were going to kick down that hill and go, I would have wanted her to be a little closer than that." Then the trainer was off, before real thoughts could escape through his mouth.

It was ironic in this atmosphere of troubled jockeyship that the Cheveley Park should go to the Frenchman who gets the same sort of reception that greeted William the Conqueror when he crosses the Channel: Freddie Head's scrapbook of memorable British rides does not have too many entries but he was faultless here as he

Mme Head went into the race professing that Pas Du Reponse had minimal prospect of staying the mile of the Classic, but just over 70 seconds and a persuasive performance later the seed of expectation was flourishing in her mind. "Today at the end, she was going away and you can win the Guineas with a horse that doesn't stay," she said. "Ma Biche didn't stay. And for me this filly is like Ravinella was in those early days and she has won the same

Obituary of Aubrey Brabazon page 10
Yesterday's results page 25

SALISBURY

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: R. Hannon — 48 winners from 355 runners gave a success ratio of 15.5% and a loss to a 1st level stake of \$47,301; J. Dupleon — 18 winners, 125 runners, 15.5%, \$30,555; P. Cole — 13 winners, 100 runners, 15.1%, \$19,141; B. Balding — 14 winners, 120 runners, 11.7%, \$54,426.

IN LEADING JOCKEYS: J. Beld — 27 winners, 182 rides, 14.7%, \$47,301; L. Dettlor — 16 winners, 116 rides, 25% \$28,730; T. Quinn — 24 winners, 177 rides, 13.6%, \$56,655; W. Miller — 124 riders, 18.6%, \$27,12.

UNLUNKED FIRST TIME: Under Club (2.40); Bold Spring (Evidance) (4.01).

WINNERS IN THIS LAST SEVEN DAYS: Mr. Gabe (3.40) won at Woodbine on Friday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Fillet And Steel (2.40) have been sent 153 miles by Bob Jones from Wickhamford, Suffolk.

1.40 **EBF MARLBOROUGH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I)**
£4,300 added 2Y0 1st Penalty Value £3,353

0	BURBERRY (24) M Charron 0 0	1	Cumail 7
0	BOLD WINGS (24) M Dando 0 0	1	Hills 4
0	CHORISTON (24) F Dando 0 0	1	Part 1
0	CRAVENS (24) J Gault 0 0	0	Hind 12
0	HIRSTHURST (22) J Gault 0 0	0	Hills 8
0	KINSHAW (24) P Chapple-Lapen 0 0	1	Field 5
0	OTHER CLUES J Telfe 0 0	5	Standard 23
0	SHEDDEN (24) M Charron 0 0	0	Field 1
0	SHEFFIELD SPARK (2) 0 Ashmore 8 0	1	Field 6
0	TRINDER (P Cole) 0 0	1	Field 2
0	WINDY LAKE (24) J Gault 0 0	1	Field 2
0	FLIGHTS W R Hem 8 0	1	Standard 2
0	SLEETIE (2) D Haydn Jones 8 0	1	Standard 2

TESTING: 3-Tropier, 4-2 Crystal Hills, 5-1 Fledgling, 7-1 Kinsley, 8-1 Corbinia, 8-1 Hawthorn Bay,

<p>210 EBF MARLBOROUGH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) \$4,300 added 270 1m Penalty Value \$3,327</p>	
<p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 </p>	

12	54	MOONSHILL (57) R Chance 89...	8 Seamus 34
13	55	MY INSIDE (67) 7 Mile 91...	8 Mike D
-23 Declared -			
RETURNS: 7-5 Yorkshire, 6-2 Secretary, 6-1 Hard One, Moonshell, 5-1 Indian, Barnard, 10-1 Wolf On W, 3-4-1 outcast			
240 HURDLERS CLAIMING HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 6f Penalty Value £3,036			
1	30500	FOREVER HONEY (H) M Channon 30...	J Daniel 8
2	30500	WISDOMFUL (57) (2) 7 Mile 89...	8 Dashed 599
3	5-58000	THE BARNES (4) P Hughes 70...	8 D McAlpine 25
4	003300	SPRING MEADOW (4) L O'Connell 40...	1 J Quinn 6
5	003300	WINDY HILL (57) 7 Mile 89...	8 Amanda Smith 25
6	00000	WARRIOR (2) R O'Sullivan 80...	8 S Seamus 27
7	00000	ALICE AUSTIN (87) M Hume 80...	A Clark 6
8	00000	CLAREMONT (4) C Phipps 70...	7 J Hickson 30
9	00000	ONE OF GLENN (8) R Phipps 75...	7 S Seamus 20
10	00400-3	UPPER CLIFF (2) P McKeown 48...	8 M McIlwain 58
11	05500-3	THE PRIZE (2) C Phipps 70...	7 J Quinn 6
12	00000	WINNIE (3) J Mulline 38...	7 S Seamus 4
13	00000	STANDARD HURDY (3) S Cunn 48...	7 S Seamus 4
14	00000	THE GARDEN (2) A O'Sullivan 37...	7 Puck 4
15	002217	SPRING MEADOW (4) C Phipps 70...	7 S Seamus 4
16	05500-4	WINDY HILL (57) 7 Mile 89...	8 Dashed 599
17	00000	ALICE AUSTIN (87) M Hume 80...	8 S Seamus 27
18	00000	THE PRIZE (2) C Phipps 70...	7 J Quinn 6
19	00000	WINDY HILL (57) 7 Mile 89...	8 Dashed 599
20	00000	WINDY HILL (57) 7 Mile 89...	8 Dashed 599

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

4.10		AUTUMN MARKET STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) \$2,250 added		NOV 71 Purkinley 2:35.47	
		1	ALUMI (pp) 124	1	18m 39s
4	04362	2	WOLD SPURIN (pp) 8	2	18m 39s
5		3	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	3	18m 39s
6	62529	4	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	4	18m 39s
7		5	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	5	18m 39s
8		6	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	6	18m 39s
9		7	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	7	18m 39s
10		8	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	8	18m 39s
11		9	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	9	18m 39s
12		10	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	10	18m 39s
13		11	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	11	18m 39s
14		12	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	12	18m 39s
15		13	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	13	18m 39s
16		14	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	14	18m 39s
17		15	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	15	18m 39s
18		16	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	16	18m 39s
19		17	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	17	18m 39s
20		18	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	18	18m 39s
21		19	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	19	18m 39s
22		20	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	20	18m 39s
23		21	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	21	18m 39s
24		22	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	22	18m 39s
25		23	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	23	18m 39s
26		24	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	24	18m 39s
27		25	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	25	18m 39s
28		26	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	26	18m 39s
29		27	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	27	18m 39s
30		28	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	28	18m 39s
31		29	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	29	18m 39s
32		30	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	30	18m 39s
33		31	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	31	18m 39s
34		32	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	32	18m 39s
35		33	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	33	18m 39s
36		34	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	34	18m 39s
37		35	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	35	18m 39s
38		36	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	36	18m 39s
39		37	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	37	18m 39s
40		38	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	38	18m 39s
41		39	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	39	18m 39s
42		40	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	40	18m 39s
43		41	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	41	18m 39s
44		42	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	42	18m 39s
45		43	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	43	18m 39s
46		44	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	44	18m 39s
47		45	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	45	18m 39s
48		46	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	46	18m 39s
49		47	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	47	18m 39s
50		48	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	48	18m 39s
51		49	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	49	18m 39s
52		50	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	50	18m 39s
53		51	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	51	18m 39s
54		52	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	52	18m 39s
55		53	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	53	18m 39s
56		54	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	54	18m 39s
57		55	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	55	18m 39s
58		56	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	56	18m 39s
59		57	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	57	18m 39s
60		58	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	58	18m 39s
61		59	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	59	18m 39s
62		60	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	60	18m 39s
63		61	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	61	18m 39s
64		62	WINDY TRUTH (pp) 8	62	18m

[illegible]

<p>Trizec was a tall filly who might be tested by a test of stamina here. Thus in a course where she is blowing into some of the better two-year-olds and Chickadee may find her head on an eye on along with Burning Throat, a known Fast Forward.</p>		<p>Selections: Trizec</p>	
<p>4.40 FORTNELL HANDICAP (CLASS E) \$4,200 added 1M 2F Penitence Value \$3,834</p>			
1	0510100	MAVERICK (2) 3 1/4 I 3rd on 39 1/4	V Statway 1
2	1086	QUICK (2) 3 1/4 K 1st on 39 1/4	S Sanders 5
3	030406	BLIND TOLD (0) K 2nd on 39 1/4	M Tied 4
4	030	DAWN TRUFFLE (2) M 1st on 39 1/4	M Tied 34
5	050404	SPRING ACT 3rd (0) M 1st on 39 1/4	J Carroll 7
6	040200	STAY (2) 3 1/4 K 1st on 39 1/4	R Hedges 2
7	030	SHREVE (2) K 1st on 39 1/4	O Hendon 35
8	522220	PRINCESS DANIELLE GA (2) W 1st on 40 1/4	D Tied 32
9	030406	STAY (2) 3 1/4 K 1st on 39 1/4	R Hedges 2
10	030405	STAY (2) 3 1/4 K 1st on 39 1/4	D Tied 31
11	012236	PIAUSA (2) (2) (2) 1st on 39 1/4	P Tied 27
12	011309	STAY (2) 3 1/4 K 1st on 39 1/4	D Tied 25
13	030	EL PRESIDENTE (2) K 1st on 39 1/4	M Tied 22
14	136406	WATERSHED (2) (2) 1st on 39 1/4	7 Tied 24
15	020209	STAY (2) 3 1/4 K 1st on 39 1/4	7 Tied 23
16	231150	BANGS DAUGHTER (2) (2) 1st on 39 1/4	A Check 11
17	640400	INMAN NEARBY (2) K 1st on 39 1/4	S Tied 20
18	04040	NEARBY (2) K 1st on 39 1/4	J Tied 18
		<p>25 - 2nd round -</p>	
<p>BETTING: 1-1 Paria, 8-1 Princess Danielle, 10-1 Malette, 10-1 Dawn Truffle, 20-1 Statway, 20-1 Trizec, 24-1 others</p>		<p>FORM GUIDE:</p>	

[illegible][illegible]

LINKED RIVER TIME: Doctor Rivers (viacred, 2.15), Still Here (viacred, 1.16), Secret Desires (2.43); *Line* (viacred, 2.45).

WATERS LAST SEVEN DAYS: Hong Kong-Distance Runners (2.16) at Stone (2.15) & Chankido (2.45) have been sent 160 miles by J Bosley from Kingston, Isle, Oxfordshire.

415 HANDCAP CHASE (E)
\$4,000 2m 11 110yds

1 2-SP DAWG (21) 5 11 12 G Minko
2 1-SP LAD OF AVALON (22) 8 11 2 7 Murphy
3 5P3 HIX TO THE RESCUE (28) 8 21 4
4 1-SP FLYING LAD (22) 7 10 13 D Minko (F)

[illegible][illegible]

3.15

NOVICE CHASE (C)
£4,000 2m 3f

BEST BET: DASHIN 11/8 **Favourite**
DORSET HILL 9/10 **Second** | Cheeky
BROOKMAN 6/1 **Third** | MURPHY 7/1 **Fourth**
WINDY WEATHER 22/1 **Fifth** | **Ninth**
HAWKING 10/1 **Sixth** | **Tenth**

■ A team of Australian jump jockeys will compete against top British and Irish riders at Ludlow and Huntington next week. The British contingent includes:

Riders: Braden, David

HYPERION

2.20 Gold Edge 2.50 Supply And Demand 3.20 Bold Oriental 3.50 Matthias Mystique 4.20 Don't Drop Bombs 4.50 Carmarthen Bay 5.20 Zlicaire

GOING: Good to Soft. **STALLS:** 12 m. 1/4 of - outside rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for R4 & S4.

Left-hand: Shaved corner, undulating and sharp.

Center: B & E uneven. Section 1m. **ADVERTISING:** Cash 1/12. Total: **matrices 82; Super King 54 (inc: 54 per cent); CARP PAIRING:** 7.

3.50 LEVY

E 54

1 533333 RYDOL
2 0-2235 AMADO
3 800 CMI SHI
4 250405 SUE
5 5-000 FUDER
6 002222 GOLD
7 533304 SOLIMEN
8 035 016
9 000000
10 233330 PERPES
11 533345
12 000000
13 000-02 MATTHE
14 000000 NOGOL

MINNERKIND FIRST TIME: Northern Girl (2:30); Heart Full of Soul (2:30); Silent Value (2:30); Perfect Gold (3:00); The Grey Weaver (4:40); Midday Cowboy (5:30).

STAY AWAY FROM THE STREETS: Bold Oriental (3:30) was at Goodwood on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE MINNERKIND: Chased Up (4:30) has been seen 219 miles by P D Evans from Leighton, Pwys.

2.20 FINAL SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6)
£3,000 added 2YO 5F

1	ASOOND	ORCHER HOUSE (20) (C) / Maresfield 8.2	8	Distaff 6.6
2	5	5	5	5
3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13	13
14	14	14	14	14
15	15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20	20

STAY AWAY FROM THE STREETS: Bold Oriental (3:30) was at Goodwood on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE MINNERKIND: Chased Up (4:30) has been seen 219 miles by P D Evans from Leighton, Pwys.

4	494250	DODGE ROSS (C) 7 James S.	M Canada 7 B	5	600540	SHOOP
5	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	6	240000	CLARK
6	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	7	65155	CLARK
7	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	8	65155	CLARK
8	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	9	65155	CLARK
9	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	10	65155	CLARK
10	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	11	65155	CLARK
11	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	12	65155	CLARK
12	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	13	65155	CLARK
13	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	14	65155	CLARK
14	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	15	65155	CLARK
15	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	16	65155	CLARK
16	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	17	65155	CLARK
17	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	18	65155	CLARK
18	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	19	65155	CLARK
19	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	20	65155	CLARK
20	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	21	65155	CLARK
21	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	22	65155	CLARK
22	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	23	65155	CLARK
23	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	24	65155	CLARK
24	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	25	65155	CLARK
25	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	26	65155	CLARK
26	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	27	65155	CLARK
27	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	28	65155	CLARK
28	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	29	65155	CLARK
29	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	30	65155	CLARK
30	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	31	65155	CLARK
31	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	32	65155	CLARK
32	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	33	65155	CLARK
33	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	34	65155	CLARK
34	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	35	65155	CLARK
35	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	36	65155	CLARK
36	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	37	65155	CLARK
37	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	38	65155	CLARK
38	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	39	65155	CLARK
39	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	40	65155	CLARK
40	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	41	65155	CLARK
41	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	42	65155	CLARK
42	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	43	65155	CLARK
43	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	44	65155	CLARK
44	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	45	65155	CLARK
45	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	46	65155	CLARK
46	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	47	65155	CLARK
47	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	48	65155	CLARK
48	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	49	65155	CLARK
49	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	50	65155	CLARK
50	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	51	65155	CLARK
51	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	52	65155	CLARK
52	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	53	65155	CLARK
53	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah 4	54	65155	CLARK
54	562	DOUG HOSSE (C) 8 Mary Ann S	R Paducah			

3	00000	1	M POLY (25) M Canyon 0	..	P Problem 7	29	604000	PARK R
4	0	PEPPER PINEAPPLE (9) Lewis 9	..	A Whelan (3) 16				
5	0	ROCK TO THE TOP (8) J Sheahan 0	..	M Wheeler 0				
6	0	SHOOTING (24) M Hayes 0	..	7 of 25				
7	0	SHOOTING (24) L Connor 0	..	7 of 25				
8	00	SUPPLY OF GOLD (13) W Higgins 0	..	M Roberts 8				
9	00	STAFF AND DEBAND (7) B J Moore 0	..	S Wilderhaus 8				
10	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 0	..	N Doyle 23				
11	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
12	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 0	..	N Doyle 23				
13	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
14	2336	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
15	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
16	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
17	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
18	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
19	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
20	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
21	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
22	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
23	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
24	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
25	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
26	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
27	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
28	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
29	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
30	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
31	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
32	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
33	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
34	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
35	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
36	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
37	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
38	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
39	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
40	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
41	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
42	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
43	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
44	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
45	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
46	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
47	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
48	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
49	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
50	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
51	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
52	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
53	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
54	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
55	0	STANDARD (2) M Thompson 0	..	1 of 25				
56	0	STANDARD (2) C Brown 8	..	1 of 25				
57								

3.20		A R DENNIS BOOKMAKERS NURSERY	
		HANICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 20 Y7	
1	046201	1	046201
2	046202	2	046202
3	2425	3	2425
4	4002	4	4002
5	6430	5	6430
6	0946	6	0946
7	0000	7	0000
8	560	8	560
9	2235	9	2235
10	04645	10	04645
11	0000	11	0000
12	0000	12	0000

[illegible]

WINNERS FIRST TIME WINNERS: (2) **WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS:** None
LONG-DISTANCE WINNERS: None
been sent 306 miles by T.I. Nipples from

200

ERF FUND DEBUTON
(CLASS D) £4750

1. 4. NEWELL (45) 8 Hinchey 9.0
2. 5. OUR FLEET IN HITCH 9.0
3. 6. DEVEREAUX (41) 8 Hinchey 8.8

1	06 DOW 58.6	4	04 DOW 58.6	7	04 DOW 58.6
2	06 DOW 58.6	5	04 DOW 58.6	8	04 DOW 58.6
3	06 DOW 58.6	6	04 DOW 58.6	9	04 DOW 58.6
4	06 DOW 58.6	7	04 DOW 58.6	10	04 DOW 58.6
5	06 DOW 58.6	8	04 DOW 58.6	11	04 DOW 58.6
6	06 DOW 58.6	9	04 DOW 58.6	12	04 DOW 58.6
7	06 DOW 58.6	10	04 DOW 58.6	13	04 DOW 58.6
8	06 DOW 58.6	11	04 DOW 58.6	14	04 DOW 58.6
9	06 DOW 58.6	12	04 DOW 58.6	15	04 DOW 58.6
10	06 DOW 58.6	13	04 DOW 58.6	16	04 DOW 58.6
11	06 DOW 58.6	14	04 DOW 58.6	17	04 DOW 58.6
12	06 DOW 58.6	15	04 DOW 58.6	18	04 DOW 58.6
13	06 DOW 58.6	16	04 DOW 58.6	19	04 DOW 58.6
14	06 DOW 58.6	17	04 DOW 58.6	20	04 DOW 58.6
15	06 DOW 58.6	18	04 DOW 58.6	21	04 DOW 58.6
16	06 DOW 58.6	19	04 DOW 58.6	22	04 DOW 58.6
17	06 DOW 58.6	20	04 DOW 58.6	23	04 DOW 58.6
18	06 DOW 58.6	21	04 DOW 58.6	24	04 DOW 58.6
19	06 DOW 58.6	22	04 DOW 58.6	25	04 DOW 58.6
20	06 DOW 58.6	23	04 DOW 58.6	26	04 DOW 58.6
21	06 DOW 58.6	24	04 DOW 58.6	27	04 DOW 58.6
22	06 DOW 58.6	25	04 DOW 58.6	28	04 DOW 58.6
23	06 DOW 58.6	26	04 DOW 58.6	29	04 DOW 58.6
24	06 DOW 58.6	27	04 DOW 58.6	30	04 DOW 58.6
25	06 DOW 58.6	28	04 DOW 58.6	31	04 DOW 58.6
26	06 DOW 58.6	29	04 DOW 58.6	32	04 DOW 58.6
27	06 DOW 58.6	30	04 DOW 58.6	33	04 DOW 58.6
28	06 DOW 58.6	31	04 DOW 58.6	34	04 DOW 58.6
29	06 DOW 58.6	32	04 DOW 58.6	35	04 DOW 58.6
30	06 DOW 58.6	33	04 DOW 58.6	36	04 DOW 58.6
31	06 DOW 58.6	34	04 DOW 58.6	37	04 DOW 58.6
32	06 DOW 58.6	35	04 DOW 58.6	38	04 DOW 58.6
33	06 DOW 58.6	36	04 DOW 58.6	39	04 DOW 58.6
34	06 DOW 58.6	37	04 DOW 58.6	40	04 DOW 58.6
35	06 DOW 58.6	38	04 DOW 58.6	41	04 DOW 58.6
36	06 DOW 58.6	39	04 DOW 58.6	42	04 DOW 58.6
37	06 DOW 58.6	40	04 DOW 58.6	43	04 DOW 58.6
38	06 DOW 58.6	41	04 DOW 58.6	44	04 DOW 58.6
39	06 DOW 58.6	42	04 DOW 58.6	45	04 DOW 58.6
40	06 DOW 58.6	43	04 DOW 58.6	46	04 DOW 58.6
41	06 DOW 58.6	44	04 DOW 58.6	47	04 DOW 58.6
42	06 DOW 58.6	45	04 DOW 58.6	48	04 DOW 58.6
43	06 DOW 58.6	46	04 DOW 58.6	49	04 DOW 58.6
44	06 DOW 58.6	47	04 DOW 58.6	50	04 DOW 58.6
45	06 DOW 58.6	48	04 DOW 58.6	51	04 DOW 58.6
46	06 DOW 58.6	49	04 DOW 58.6	52	04 DOW 58.6
47	06 DOW 58.6	50	04 DOW 58.6	53	04 DOW 58.6
48	06 DOW 58.6	51	04 DOW 58.6	54	04 DOW 58.6
49	06 DOW 58.6	52	04 DOW 58.6	55	04 DOW 58.6
50	06 DOW 58.6	53	04 DOW 58.6	56	04 DOW 58.6
51	06 DOW 58.6	54	04 DOW 58.6	57	04 DOW 58.6
52	06 DOW 58.6	55	04 DOW 58.6	58	04 DOW 58.6
53	06 DOW 58.6	56	04 DOW 58.6	59	04 DOW 58.6
54	06 DOW 58.6	57	04 DOW 58.6	60	04 DOW 58.6

1	232	7	630	JOULETA MA (2) 4.8	4	Wishes (2) 8.1
2	30	2	532	MAI GUN (2) 4.8	5	11 Does 8.1
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BIRMINGHAM (20) (D) Last Handicap \$2.1.
Almanac Card (S)
—B closed
Favor, 6-1 Murrin, 8-2 Classic Tenacity, 9-1 Last
Chance
2-1 Manglefoot, 7-1 Others

MINGTONS MACMILLAN APPEAL
STAKES (CL) £5,100 1m
1st (S) 2-1 Manglefoot, 4-3 "C"
2nd (S) 2-1 Manglefoot, 4-3 "C"
3rd (S) 2-1 Manglefoot, 4-3 "C"

WINDY HILLS (20) (D) Last Handicap \$2.1.
Almanac Card (S)
—B closed
Favor, 6-1 Murrin, 8-2 Classic Tenacity, 9-1 Last
Chance
2-1 Manglefoot, 7-1 Others

CLICHE ONE

Classic Cliche remains Frankie Dettori's possible Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe mount after yesterday's first forfeit stage in which the Ascot Gold Cup winner remained one of 29 left in France's big race.

Orlando Inghis

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\$5,000 added 7F

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2 013000 HUNTER COTTER (R) 39 (6) M Bet 3 9 6 ... M Fonten 1
3 526350 KIMITY HILL (SP) 38 (4) A 8 0 ... Furlante 2
4 542142 DIVINE QUEST (D) 47 (1) Cacti 3 8 1 1 ... W Ryan 3

— 4 declined —

BEYING: 5-4 5-Mile Quarter, 3-2 Hooten Pond, 7-2 Green Supper, 11-2 Hooten Hill

4.30
\$5,000 added 5F

JARROW SPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS D)

[illegible][illegible]

of 29 in Arc

Meanwhile, Dettori confirmed that he would switch to the John Gosden-trained *Tamure*, currently languishing at around 33-1, if *Classic Circle* becomes an absentee. *Golden Palace* is the favorite at 11-10.

Cliche one of 29 in Arc

Classic Cliche remains Frankie Dettori's possible Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe mount after yesterday's first forfeit stage in which the Ascot Gold Cup winner remained one of 29 left in Sunday's big race. Godolphin's racing manager, Simon Crisford, said: "Classic Cliche cantered this morning and was bright. He is scheduled to do some more work before we make up our minds."

Meanwhile, Dettori confirmed that he would switch to the John Gosden-trained Tamure, currently languishing at around 33-1, if Classic Cliche becomes an absentee. Gosden said of Tamure: "He hasn't run all year because of fast ground. He was being aimed for the Go-offrey Freer Stakes but was pulled out because of a corn. "It's a tough race to come back into but we'll give it a go."

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sport



Tangerine feminist in charge

The first time Vicki Oyston travelled on the Blackpool team bus, the then-manager, Sam Ellis, took her to one side. He had no objection to the chairman's wife and deputy riding with the lads, but what about the, er, industrial language? "Don't worry," she said. "I'll try not to use any."

These days, if visiting grandees feel the need to bite their lips in the Blackpool boardroom, it is probably not because they have let an expletive slip out. Now that Mrs Oyston has become chairman in the absence of her husband Owen, who is serving a six-year prison sentence for rape, Bloomfield Road is not the most tactful place to complain about defenders "tackling like women" or to deride a striker as "a big girl's house".

The influence of the so-called weaker sex runs deeper at Blackpool than at any club in the country. Mrs Oyston's board includes Jill Bridge, the managing director, and Rebecca Bingham, wife of the former Northern Ireland manager, Billy (their director of football). They are joined by Carol Banks, the company secretary. Even the famous tangerine shirts bear the legend "Rebecca's" after the jewellers who sponsor the team.

It is rather harder to label Vicki Oyston, who has the kind of contradictory profile which defies stereotyping. A finalist in the Miss Great Britain contest of 1962, she now classes herself as a feminist. Paralleling her life as a businesswoman, working 10-hour days on the Oyston Group's media, property, investment and farming interests, she has a history of hacking left-wing causes and a background in teaching.

There is an even more striking contrast. This softly spoken, vegetarian grandmother of 50 may have accepted that her husband is an adulterer. Yet she is convinced that he has

never raped anyone and campaigns vigorously for his release on appeal.

Having chosen some "good, responsible women" to run the club, she has followed since the age of eight, Vicki Oyston is able to limit her involvement as League football's first female chairman to two and a half days a week. "I didn't feel I had to strike a blow by calling myself 'chairwoman,'" she says. "I've got the job, I enjoy it, and Owen reckons I should keep it. But the title is irrelevant."

Her only contemporary, Paula O'Halloran, of Barry Town, insists on vetting every potential signing and actually washes the team's strip. "I am not hands-on in that respect," Mrs Oyston laughs. "I watch the finances, I watch the commercial side and I watch the football." Blackpool plan to move into a £50m super-stadium within two years. "It's Owen's baby, but I'd love to make it a reality."

Shortly after becoming a director, nine years ago, she was stunned to be turned out of the Tannery boardroom because of her sex.

She encountered similar prejudice at Bradford City, yet perceives changed attitudes at both clubs within the game generally. During last week's match at Chelsea, the home vice chairman, Matthew Harding, asked if he could sit with the Blackpool women "because you seem to be having so much fun". "If I do get patronised, it's usually by the people on the door. They'll say, 'Hello, Mr Chadwick. Hello, Mr Wilde,' and then 'Hello, dear,' to me. When I'd arrived with Owen some people took it for granted it was just an appendage with nothing to say, though that's not peculiar to football."

Rackets of sexism remain. Before Blackpool last played at Port Vale, the Potteries club rang to warn them that she was not welcome in their boardroom. "Our directors decided



'I don't use feminine wiles because I haven't got any. I just behave as naturally as I can'

Vicki Oyston
Blackpool chairman



Love on the line: Val Andrews, guided by a passion for the game, became one of the few women to officiate at senior non-League level

Photograph: Rob Gallagher

Riots, fouls but fewer foul words

At a time when referees are being scrutinised more microscopically and criticised more heavily than ever before, perhaps it is no surprise to find so few women involved in officiating at any level as men are constantly reminded, women generally have more sense, and this must be proof.

But for some, the love of football can lead to temptation and for Val Andrews it proved too much to resist. Having followed her local club, Wimbledon, with her father and brother, she began playing at 16. By the age of 20 she was a qualified referee and in 1988 she became a Class 1 official and only the second woman to join the list of the Football League, one step down from the Vauxhall Conference.

Now 35, she kept playing until two years ago, when she also stopped running the line in the Isthmian League. Being in charge of a decorating business, serving as secretary of her local referees' society and as an examiner eventually took priority, although she still officiates in lower leagues.

"I enjoyed the five years I was on at that level," she says. As you might expect, she still has vivid memories of her first game in charge. "It was the week I qualified. I was thrown in at the deep end and on a Wimbledon District Premier game when the referee didn't turn up. It was my brother's team. Everything, I thought, was going fairly well until about two or three minutes to go when there was a mass riot. Thankfully I managed to sort it out."

'I got comments like "I'm not going to take that from my wife, so I'm not taking it from you"'

Val Andrews
Referee

"When I first started it was a question of being accepted by the players as someone who knew what they were doing. There are some players who are quite happy to shut up and

get on with it, and there are others who are not going to take it from a woman. I got comments like, 'I'm not going to take that from my wife, so I'm not going to take it from you.' You deal with it either with common sense or you use the letter of the law."

"Once or twice I've had a bit of abuse from spectators whilst lining, but you tend to switch off. I went to one ground where it was totally over the top but it only happens now and then, thank goodness."

It's a question of making people believe that you're capable of doing the job as well as men. There are still those of the old school who have been in football a number of years who just can't accept it. It's because of the way they've been brought up. I don't think

we're any better than men, but we can be on an equal par."

Advantages, there are a few, but then again... "Possibly you get a little less back chat from players, you get the language curbed, from what I can gather. You get players apologising for swearing sometimes. I don't think that's a bad thing for the game. And you get some people who might not give you certain hassle that they would give a man."

"But I think it's going to remain a minority thing for women. It's much easier for men to get into than women. They haven't got children at home to look after, possibly, or are in the process of having children. I can't see there suddenly being a mass influx of female officials."

Rusedski and Smith hit the heights

Tennis

The British No 2, Greg Rusedski, and Sam Smith, the 24-year-old Essex player, both gained outstanding victories yesterday.

The left-handed Rusedski, whose world ranking sank to 84 the previous day, enjoyed one of the best victories of his career when he trounced the fifth-seeded Australian Todd Woodbridge - ranked 34th - 6-3, 6-1 in the first round of the Heineken Open in Singapore.

And Smith, ranked 214th in the world, beat Sweden's Asa Carlsson, ranked 46th, 6-2, 7-6 in the first round of the Sparkassen Cup in Leipzig. The Essex player led 5-2 in the second set, missed a match point in the eighth game and trailed 2-4 in the tie-break before clinching her best victory of the year.

Now she is certain to move up from No 3 to No 1 in Britain. Seffi Graf needed just 40 minutes to destroy the American Kimberly Po 6-0, 6-1 yesterday at the Leipzig Open - her first match in Germany since her father went on trial for tax evasion.

At the post-match news conference, the world No 1, now through to the quarter-finals, refused to comment on her father's trial, saying only: "Sometimes I do find it hard to concentrate, but somehow I always manage."

Schumacher sorry not to partner Hill

Motor racing

Jordan-Peugeot's new acquisition, Ralf Schumacher, said yesterday that he is disappointed he will not be learning about Formula One next season from his older brother's rival, Damon Hill.

Hill, who is one point away from clinching this year's World Championship, was widely tipped to be going to Jordan after Williams dropped him from their 1997 line-up, but the

Briton surprised everyone last week by announcing he was joining the rejuvenated Arrows team.

"I'm really disappointed about his decision, but I guess it's about money. I think Schumacher, the 21-year-old brother of the current world champion, Michael Schumacher, 'Maybe he doesn't like Schumachers, I don't know,' he said during a break from his first proper testing session for Jordan at the Estoril circuit.

Jordan has still to announce

he currently leads, was more important than the Schumacher name in getting him into Formula One.

"In my first meeting with Formula One, they told me: 'You either race fast or you stay at home,' he said.

Eddie Jordan, the team owner who attended the tests, said one of his main reasons for hiring Schumacher was the team's past success with young drivers. Michael Schumacher, now at Ferrari, began his meteoric rise at Jordan in 1991 before a con-

troversial mid-season move to Benetton, although the younger Schumacher said he felt he would be happy merely casting into Formula One at Jordan.

"There is not so much pressure," he said. "If you go to Williams, you have to win the championship."

Jordan's present drivers, Rubens Barrichello of Brazil and Brundage, are in eighth and 12th places in the drivers' tables with one race to go in Japan on 13 October. The Jordan team is fifth in the constructors' race.

British trio to clock up their air miles

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Three members of the British Olympic team - John Whitaker, Nick Skelton and Geoff Bilton - will be commuting between the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley and Paul Schockemöhle's show at Bremen in Germany at the end of the week.

A private plane has been booked to fly the British trio from Luton to Bremen on Thursday and Sunday mornings, returning the same day for the big evening classes at Wembley.

When the initial arrangements were made, the Golden Saddle Grand Prix at Wembley was the last competition on Sunday evening. It has since been moved to the start of the evening programme which, according to Whitaker, "will make the timing a bit tight."

Whitaker and Bilton will have their Olympic mounts, Welham and It's Out, in Bremen. Skelton will have Dollar Girl, the mare he rode into third place in this year's Volvo World Cup final. There was no agonising over the decision. The top prize at Wembley is £7,500 - compared with £40,000 at Bremen, which is where the top horses will obviously be.

The great efforts to recapture the popularity of the Wembley

show, which begins its five-day run this morning, should nevertheless pay worthwhile dividends. The Cadre Noir, the French National School of Equestrianism, will be giving their wonderful displays of classical riding on the last three days of the show. There will also be a qualifier for the Volvo World Cup Dressage, a freestyle to music contest, on Sunday.

The organisers are hoping that improved facilities and presentation will help them to attract a major sponsor, which would then make it possible to increase the show jumping prizes. The show already has a new date for next year; it will run from 24 to 28 September to avoid another clash with Bremen.

TODAY'S NUMBER

3

The number of former Arsenal management staff now at Queen's Park Rangers. Steve Burtenshaw yesterday completed the triumvirate when he took over as QPR's chief scout under the new manager, Stewart Houston, and his assistant, Bruce Rioch.

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST

Nationwide Football League

First Division

- 1 Bradford v Southern
- 2 Charlton v Barnsley
- 3 Gillingham v QPR
- 4 Ipswich v Swindon
- 5 Oldham v Port Vale
- 6 Wolverhampton v Reading

Also playing (not on coupons): Oxford Utd vs Bolton.

Playing Friday: Tranmere v Portsmouth.

Playing Saturday: Crystal Palace v Sheffield United.

Second Division

- 7 Brentford v Rotherham
- 8 Bristol Rovers v Crewe Alexandra (Nad)
- 9 Burnley v Stockport
- 10 Bury v Blackpool
- 11 Chesterfield v Bristol City
- 12 Gillingham v Bournemouth
- 13 Luton v Watford
- 14 Plymouth v Millwall
- 15 Preston v Peterborough
- 16 Wycombe v Notts County
- 17 York v Watford

Also playing (not on coupons): Bath v Alton; Grimsby v Gillingham; Halifax v Kidderminster; Hayes v Telford.

Playing Friday: "Bristol Rovers" v Crewe.

Third Division

- 18 Barnet v Torquay
- 19 Cambridge Utd v Hartlepool
- 20 Carlisle v Mansfield
- 21 Chester v Cardiff (postponed)
- 22 Doncaster v Rochdale
- 23 Doncaster v Leyton Orient
- 24 Hereford v Scarborough
- 25 Hull v Southport
- 26 Lincoln v Exeter
- 27 Northampton v Fulham
- 28 Wigan v Brighton

*Pools panel will adjudicate.

Playing Friday (not on coupons): Swansea v Colchester.

4th Division

- 29 Hednesford v Farnborough
- 30 Northwich v Dover
- 31 Rushden & Diamonds v Welling
- 32 Slough v Morecambe
- 33 Slough v Kettering
- 34 Stevenage v Southend
- 35 Woking v Maidstone

Also playing (not on coupons): Bath v Alton; Grimsby v Gillingham; Halifax v Kidderminster; Hayes v Telford.

Playing Friday: "Bristol Rovers" v Crewe.

Scottish League

- 36 Arbroath v St Mirren
- 37 Dundee v Clydebank
- 38 East Fife v Falkirk
- 39 Greenock Morton v Partick
- 40 Stirling Albion v Stirling

Also playing (not on coupons): Stirling v Stirling.

Second Division

- 41 Brechin v Berwick
- 42 Dumbarton v Ayr
- 43 Livingston v Clyde
- 44 Stirling Albion v Hamilton
- 45 Stirling Albion v Queen of the South

Also playing (not on coupons): Stirling v Stirling.

Playing Friday: "Bristol Rovers" v Crewe.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

2.30 unless stated

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- FIRST DIVISION: Bradford City v Swindon
- QPR v Port Vale
- Wolves v Bolton

SECOND DIVISION

- Millwall v Stockport
- GM VALLEY CONFERENCE: Morecambe v Northwich

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

SEMI-FINAL: Stirling Albion v Stirling Albion

Also playing (not on coupons): Stirling v Stirling.

UNION LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Accrington Stanley v Chorley; Barnsley v Accrington Stanley; Bolton Wanderers v Bolton Wanderers; Burnley v Burnley; Carlisle United v Carlisle United; Chester City v Chester City; Colchester United v Colchester United; Crewe Alexandra v Crewe Alexandra; Gillingham v Gillingham; Grimsby Town v Grimsby Town; Hartlepool United v Hartlepool United; Huddersfield Town v Huddersfield Town; Ipswich Town v Ipswich Town; Kidderminster Harriers v Kidderminster Harriers; Lincoln City v Lincoln City; Luton Town v Luton Town; Maidstone United v Maidstone United; Mansfield Town v Mansfield Town; Millwall v Millwall; Morecambe v Morecambe; Notts County v Notts County; Oldham Athletic v Oldham Athletic; Peterborough United v Peterborough United; Port Vale v Port Vale; Reading v Reading; Rochdale v Rochdale; Rotherham United v Rotherham United; Shrewsbury Town v Shrewsbury Town; Southend United v Southend United; Southport v Southport; Stockport County v Stockport County; Swindon Town v Swindon Town; Telford United v Telford United; Torquay United v Torquay United; Tranmere Rovers v Tranmere Rovers; Walsley v Walsley; Welling v Welling; Woking v Woking; Wycombe Wanderers v Wycombe Wanderers; York City v York City.

Also playing (not on coupons): Bath v Alton; Grimsby v Gillingham; Halifax v Kidderminster; Hayes v Telford.

Playing Friday: "Bristol Rovers" v Crewe.

Wales

Cardiff v Swansea

Wales League

- Cardiff v Swansea
- Cardiff v Swansea
- Cardiff v Swansea

Wales League

- Cardiff v Swansea
- Cardiff v Swansea
- Cardiff v Swansea

Wales League

- Cardiff v Swansea
- Cardiff v Swansea
- Cardiff v Swansea

Wales League

Cardiff v Swansea

Playing Friday: "Bristol Rovers" v Crewe.

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Playing Friday: "Bristol Rovers" v Crewe.

SPORT



'I got comments like, "I'm not going to take that from my wife, so I'm not taking it from you"'
Women in control – in the boardroom and on the pitch

Page 24

Ravanelli talks of move to Old Trafford

Football

CATHERINE RILEY

With the season not yet two months old, Fabrizio Ravanelli's future at Middlesbrough was thrown in doubt yesterday when reports from Italy indicated that he was seeking a move from the Premiership club.

Ravanelli, who is in Italy with the national squad for their World Cup qualifier against Moldova on Saturday, was quoted as saying Manchester United were interested in him.

"The idea is exciting because Manchester United are more representative and prestigious, they have greater ambitions, while Middlesbrough have a long-term programme," he said. "Let's wait and see what happens on my return to England. After you've won a bit, as I have, it's not easy to fight for a place in the UEFA Cup."

While a move to Old Trafford might seem unlikely, it is thought Ravanelli is unsettled at Middlesbrough and he may return to Italy's Serie A with a

move to Parma, who are believed to be keen on signing him during the Italian league's transfer window next month.

Bolton Wanderers are trying to sign the former Manchester United player Mark Hughes in a £1.5m deal from Chelsea. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, wants to sign Hughes before the two sides meet in the Coca-Cola Cup later this month.

Paul McGrath is reconciled to leaving Aston Villa after his transfer row with Brian Little, the Villa manager. McGrath has handed in a written transfer request after seven years at Villa and will today meet Little and the club chairman, Doug Ellis, who has placed a £200,000 price tag on the player.

"I wanted to leave Villa with my head held high, but the way things have been, that doesn't seem possible now," McGrath said. "I don't think it is possible to patch things up now."

The saga involving Mark Guzman, the Chester City chairman, and Manchester City took a new twist yesterday when the 36-year-old property

tycoon called off a news conference last night at which he was expected to announce details of a proposed offer.

His explanation suggested that he had lost interest in helping out City, saying: "I have had an amicable meeting with Francis Lee, the Manchester City chairman. I remain chairman of Chester City FC and will devote all of my efforts towards ensuring the future and development of the Deva Stadium Football Club."

A different light was shed on the matter when Bill Wingrove, Chester's club spokesman, later said that the news conference had only been postponed. He also said the idea of Chester acting as a "feeder club" for City was still under consideration.

Meanwhile, the Carlisle chairman, Michael Knighton, has revealed that he rejected an approach to take over City. Knighton, who made an audacious bid to gain control of City's neighbours Manchester United in 1989, says he was targeted by an unnamed consortium to be chief executive five weeks ago. "I didn't really give it a second thought," he said. "I wasn't asked for any real financial investment as they just wanted me to run it. I suppose I have to say I was rather flattered to be approached and I sincerely hope City can sort themselves out."

Martin Scott, the Sunderland defender sent off in last Saturday's defeat at Arsenal, has had a second operation in three months. The 28-year-old Scott had a hernia operation before the season began and had further surgery on Monday on a troublesome groin injury.

Meanwhile, his manager, Peter Reid, has accepted that he will be asked by the Football Association to explain his reactions to Scott's dismissal which resulted in referee Paul Danson ordering him from the dug-out.

"I expect I will be receiving some mail from the FA fairly soon," he said. "Everything I have to say on the situation I said on Saturday and I stand by that. I was unprofessional and I have apologised."

The Portsmouth manager, Terry Fenwick, first-team coach Keith Waldon, and director Terry Brady, have been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after alleged remarks made to referee Martin Bodenham after last week's Coca-Cola Cup defeat by Wimpoleton.

England's World Cup qualifying match against Poland at Wembley on 9 October has been made all-ticket following the sale of 50,000 seats. No tickets will be available on the night.

Only the best for Wenger

Arsene Wenger arrived for his first official day's work at Arsenal yesterday and pledged: "Only the best will be good enough for me."

The Gunners' new French manager, who is on a three-year contract worth around £2m, knows that no foreign coach has ever won the title in England or led a Premiership team to lasting success.

He said yesterday: "This is my challenge and, quite simply, my ambition is to win every match and every competition we play in. The League championship is the mark of real quality for me, the first ambition. Everything follows from that."

"I will aim to try to improve the club at every level, from the first team down to the youth system. It will be no sudden revolution, but there will be a gradual transition."

Wenger, whose first match in charge is at Blackburn on 12 October, said he considers the England goalkeeper, David Seaman, 32, skipper Tony Adams, 30, and striker Ian Wright, 33 in November, as the backbone of the team.

"Over the next few days I will be talking to the players on an

individual basis, but nobody need fear coming to see me. I will not be cutting anybody, but I would like to buy new players as well because the squad is a bit small."

"I look at Ian Wright and he is not like a normal 33. He is extremely fit and strong. It is the same with Tony Adams who I know is a great leader. And for Seaman, as a goalkeeper, his age is unimportant."

"The players have to adapt to me and I must adapt to them," he said. "We must be tolerant of one another. They will all have their chance because what has gone on before is not my responsibility. I am very strong on discipline, but that starts on the pitch. I do not want to lose the many strengths Arsenal already have."

"They know and have had to accept that any little thing they do is often seen as a big thing because Arsenal is a very exposed club in the media. Many other players would not be able to cope with that. I will work to my maximum and I am confident I can bring out the best from everybody who works with me. In the end I will only be satisfied if I get the best."



Greg Rusedski, of Britain, plays a slice backhand during his outstanding 6-3, 6-1 victory over Todd Woodbridge in the first round of the Heineken Open in Singapore yesterday. Report, page 24; Photograph, Gary M Prior/Allsport

Spitting spat puts play-offs in a spin

Baseball

A threat by umpires to boycott the play-offs after a player spat at an official was yesterday called off at the last minute.

They were angered by the handling of an incident involving the Baltimore Orioles' second baseman, Roberto Alomar, and an umpire, John Hirschbeck, on Friday.

Following an argument over a decision, Alomar spat on and bumped Hirschbeck and later suggested that the umpire's impartiality had been compromised by his hitherto over the death of his eight-year-old son. An enraged Hirschbeck had to be restrained from storming into the Orioles' dressing-room.

The union chief, Richie Phillips, said that umpires would boycott games if a five-game suspension of Alomar did not begin immediately.

However, the union president, Jerry Crawford, said that umpires would honour a court order to return to work if, as expected, the League management obtained a ruling yesterday morning.

Alomar has apologised for his behaviour and, because he had appealed against the suspension, was being allowed to play until the 1997 regular season.

"Our executive board voted unanimously to withhold services until the Alomar suspension goes into effect," Phillips said. "All the umpires in the American League and National League were polled."

The major leagues, who locked out the umpires last year, were determined to stage all the post-season fixtures. "We will have these games," Rich Levin, the public relations director for Major League Baseball, said. "We expect them to honour their contract."

The first play-off was scheduled yesterday in Baltimore, between the Orioles and the Cleveland Indians.

Alomar's apology came in a two-page statement issued by the Orioles. "I deeply regret my disrespectful conduct towards a man that I know always gives his utmost as an umpire. Certainly, he has worked at least as hard as I have to make it to the majors. Notwithstanding what occurred, I have great respect for him and his profession," Alomar said.

Hirschbeck was relieved of his umpiring duties at the weekend. After appealing against his suspension, Alomar hit a home run in the 10th inning on Saturday, giving the Orioles the win they needed to wrap up the American League wild-card place.

Wasps upset by Neath

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Professionalism would appear to have spawned little but strife in rugby union's brave new world. Yet another row has broken out; this time the much troubled Anglo-Welsh competition is the focus. Wasps having been stirred up by Neath's late withdrawal from tonight's fixture have announced they are to seek up to £15,000 in compensation from the Welsh champions.

The north London club are angry they were allowed to commit themselves to costly arrangements to stage the match at their club headquarters at Sudbury. A Wasps spokesman, John Casson, said: "We will be asking for compensation. We had committed ourselves to substantial expense."

Neath have cited their inability to raise a front row for the game. According to them, the prop John Davies and the hooker Barry Williams are on international duty with Wales in

Italy this week, the reserve hooker Marcus Thomas is not yet 100 per cent fit after a knee injury and Leighton Gerard, another front row specialist, has a leg injury. The prop Mark Harris is the only player with first team experience who is fit.

The Anglo-Welsh tournament is rapidly losing credibility. Bridgend have also postponed tonight's match at Leicester and other Welsh clubs have cried off in earlier rounds of matches. The competition has no sponsor, no television coverage or concomitant broadcasting revenue, and no status.

The competition came under discussion last night during a meeting between representatives of English Professional Rugby Union Clubs and their Welsh counterparts in Cardiff, a get-together which had been called to consider other matters. The EPRU chief executive, Kim Deshayes, said: "We have to flush out why we have problems and then address those problems to get the show back on the road because it's a competition we want to continue with."

Wales, meanwhile, look set for another row with an Anglo-Welsh flavour. They are seriously considering staging the Five Nations match against England on 15 March at Wembley because of rebuilding work at Cardiff Arms Park which will reduce the capacity to around 30,000 from 52,700.

They risk incurring the displeasure of their fans. Talks have been held between the Welsh Rugby Union and Wembley's owners and if it goes ahead it will present Wales supporters with a 300-mile round trip.

The Wales lock Gareth Llewellyn, who plays for Harlequins, said last night: "There is really nowhere else in Wales you could stage the match and if the Arms Park is not available then the only other places to hold it would be Birmingham or London. It's a shame for the supporters and of course the atmosphere will not be the same as the one in Cardiff. But we just have to lump it."

Spanish linesman turns TV star

ADAM SZRETER

Following the recent success in Spain of a comedy film with the unlikely title of *Matias the Linesman* (or *Matias the Assistant Referee* depending on which translation you use), a real-life Matias has emerged, much to the amusement of Spanish fans everywhere – with the exception of those of Zaragoza.

In the film a linesman who recommends a penalty award against the Spanish national side has to take refuge from angry fans in a remote village. Now Rafael Guerrero has received

telephone threats and the school where he is a caretaker has been drenched with graffiti after he told referee Enrique Mejuto of an alleged infringement in Zaragoza's game with Barcelona at the weekend.

On his advice, Mejuto sent off Zaragoza's Xavier Aguado and awarded the penalty from which Barcelona equalised, before going on to win 5-3 after trailing 3-1. But television replays suggest Guerrero was mistaken about the player involved, and possibly the nature of the incident.

Viewers have been treated to unexpurgated versions – complete with heavy obscenities – of

the conversation in which Mejuto asks the linesman what he is signalling for and Guerrero replies "Penalty and sending off" Mejuto, not best pleased at the inevitable controversy that will ensue, then falls victim to his taste for colourful obscenities.

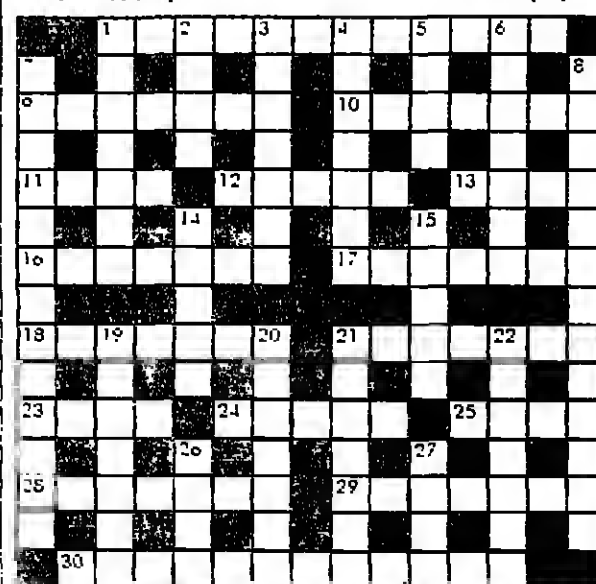
A television microphone captured the conversation in detail and on Monday supporters at Atletico Madrid's game with Hercules were already chanting the best-known and most obscene phrases of the exchange. Unfortunately they are too close to print in a family newspaper, but *Matias the Linesman* should soon be on general release.



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3107, Wednesday 2 October

By Aquila



Tuesday's Solution
ACROSS
1. Bitter (4)
2. Short incursion, always, for poets (5)
3. Hard slog for Rangers with centre-half King (4)
4. Endless to-do in genuine declination (7)
5. Describe former partner? Ugh! (7)
6. Disastrous note on a flute that is flawed (7)
7. Double reed blown in the wind (4)
8. Banqueting out east – or the other extreme (7)
9. Embarrassed cry when something is dropped in Co-op supermarket (4)
10. Cleaner to quieten a politician on rounds? (7)
11. Nonsense for Americans to have down on Suffolk, for instance (13)
12. Having approved opinions of little-holding? (5-8)
13. French quizzing frenzied caper (5)
14. Gray excited about Northern Cross, say? (5)
15. One has the highest standing in Chester, for example (7)
16. Gangster has cowl on chimney (7)
17. Jack on lines of double-dealing (7)
18. Flower on bosom droop in the centre? (7)
19. Wine on the move, mainly (4)
20. Capital of beekeepers half used up (4)

- DOWN**
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